Le Cirque de Karakuri

からくりサーカス

13

藤田和日郎

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

SS comics

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小学館

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SS comics

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勝に強力なライバル登場！ 名は涼子、ことあるごとに勝に食ってかかる「サーカスが大キライ」な女の子。珍しくムキになる勝だが、涼子のサーカス嫌いには理由があった…

久々の興行を前に、道具がなくて大ピンチの仲町サーカス、そして中国へ向かう機中で、自動人形に襲われる鳴海の運命やいかに？

ご存じ、超熱血機巧活劇、波瀾万丈の第13巻であります。

からくりサーカス

Le Cirque de Karakuri

13

藤田和日郎（ふじたかずひろ）

★前巻までのあらすじ★

自動人形の行方を追う鳴海達は、アメリカのゾナハ病治療施設を訪れ、新型の「しろがねーO」と対面。

鳴海は無邪気な子供達の笑顔に安心するが、実情は、苛酷な職務のあまり職員達の心身はすでにボロボロ。

子供達も次々とゾナハ病を発症、親しかった子供達の死に直面した鳴海は大ショック。

そこへ現れた自動人形・パウルマン軍団を、鳴海は悲しみと怒りに満ちた拳で壊滅。

だが、その凄惨な光景は子供達を怖がらせる結果に……

施設をあとにした三人は、得た情報を元に敵の本拠へ向けて出発。その頃、日本では勝としろがねが!?

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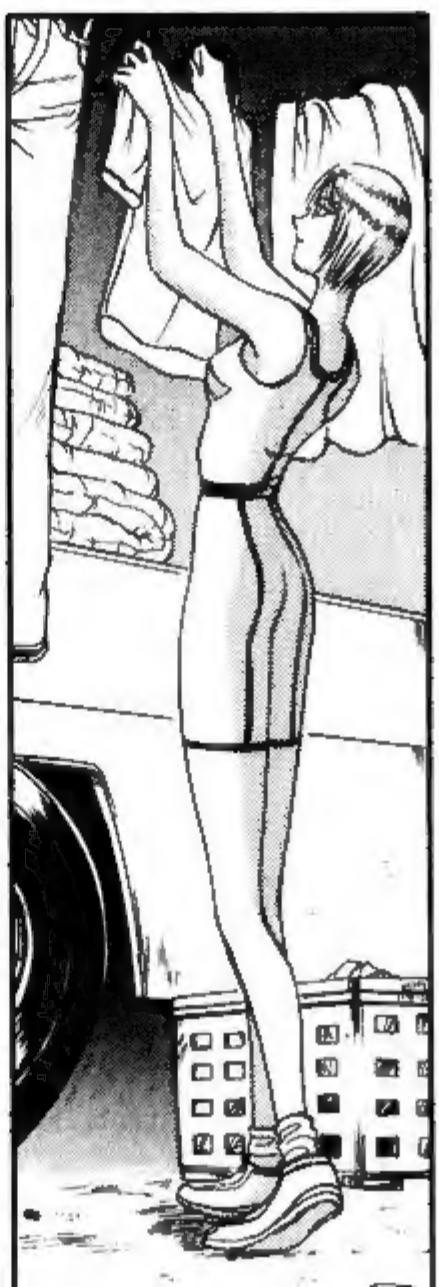
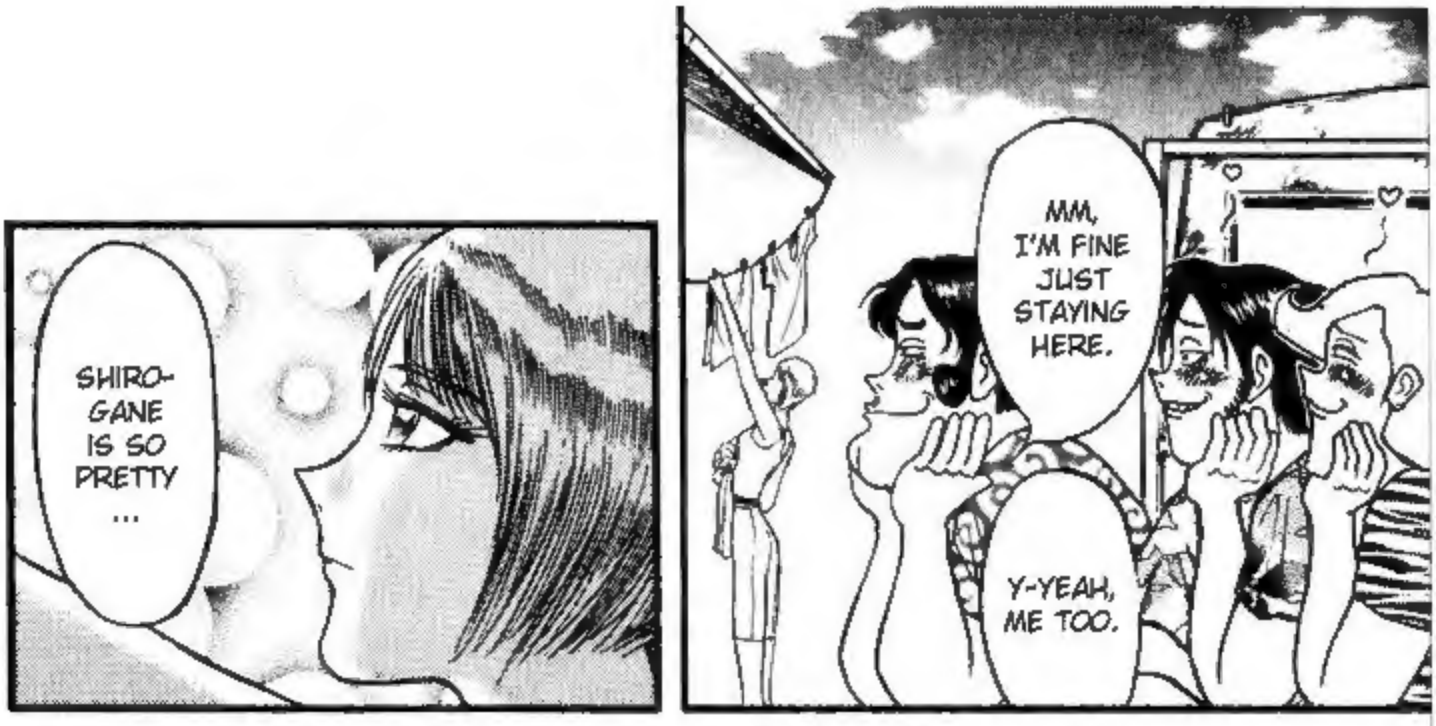
■藤田和日郎■

Intermission～Two People Far Apart

Second Half




SHIRO-GANE IS SO PRETTY ...
MM, I'M FINE JUST STAYING HERE.
Y-YEAH, ME TOO.

YOU REALLY ARE A PAIR OF LOSERS.
KUKKU-KKUKKU ...
WONDER IF SHE'D GO OUT WITH ME ...
SHE'S SO GREAT.

I'M THE SON OF THE BOSS OF THE STRAW CIRCUS, WHERE SHE WORKED ORIGINALLY. AND THE MAN WITH WHOM SHE FORMED A SUPERSTAR ACROBATIC COMBINATION!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT WHEN SHIROGANE BARELY KNOWS YOU EXIST!?
NON, NON.

YOU'VE BEEN HANGING AROUND A FINE WOMAN LIKE THAT, BUT YOU'VE MADE NO PROGRESS AT ALL?
WHAT'S THAT!?

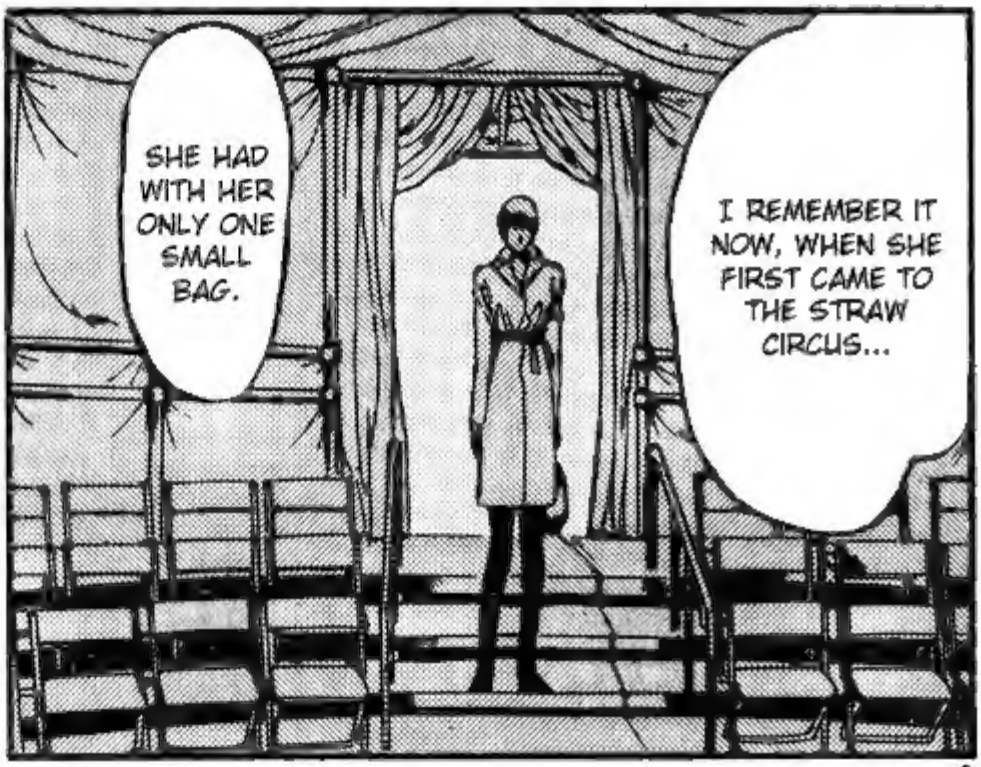
きぺ°
COULD IT POSSIBLY BE THAT SHE'S NOT EVEN AWARE OF YOU AS MEN?

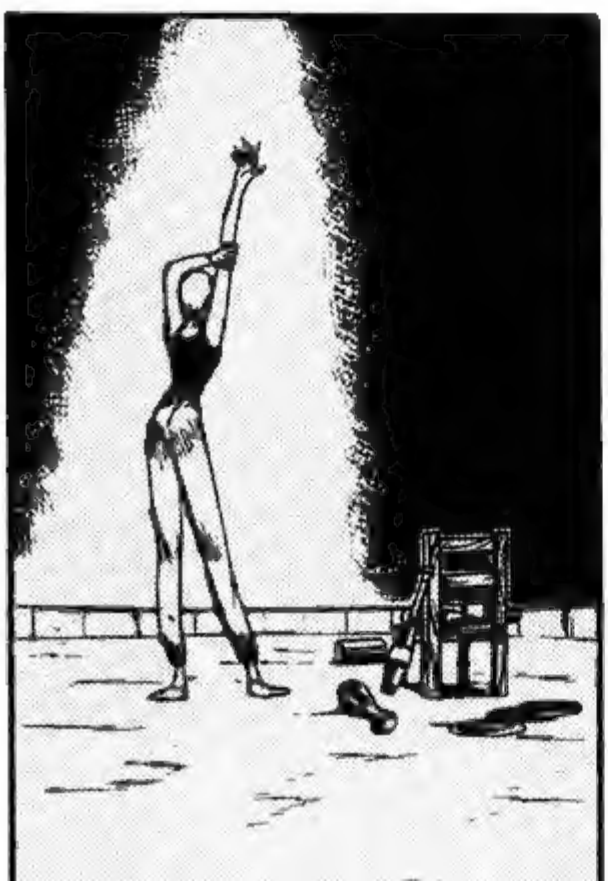
2

IN OTHER WORDS ...

AHAHAHAHA
THERE'S JUST NO COMPARING THE DEPTH OF HER RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU TWO!! HAHAHAHAHA!
I'VE KNOWN SHIROGANE SINCE SHE FIRST CAME TO JAPAN!

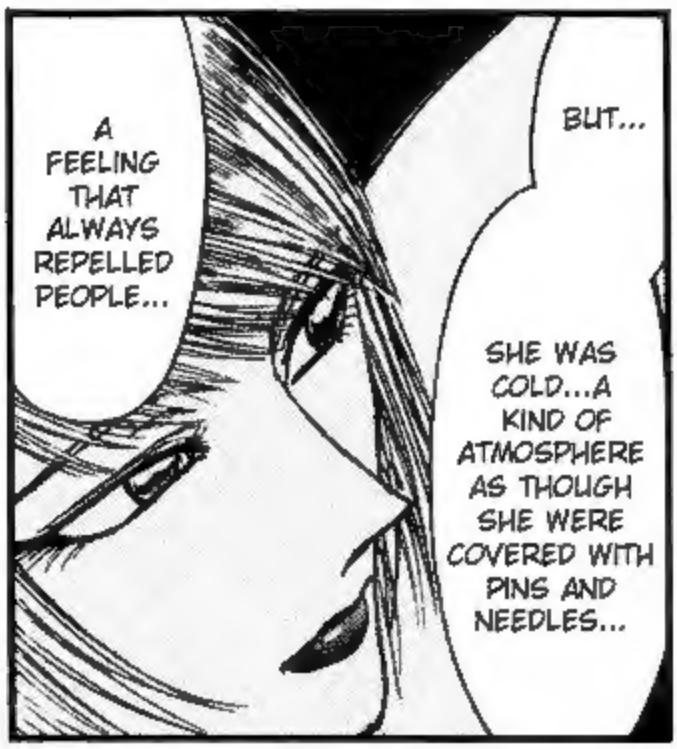
MY NAME IS SHIRO-GANE.
I'VE STUDIED IN A CIRCUS IN FRANCE... PLEASE PERMIT ME TO WORK FOR YOU.


SHE HAD WITH HER ONLY ONE SMALL BAG.
I REMEMBER IT NOW, WHEN SHE FIRST CAME TO THE STRAW CIRCUS...



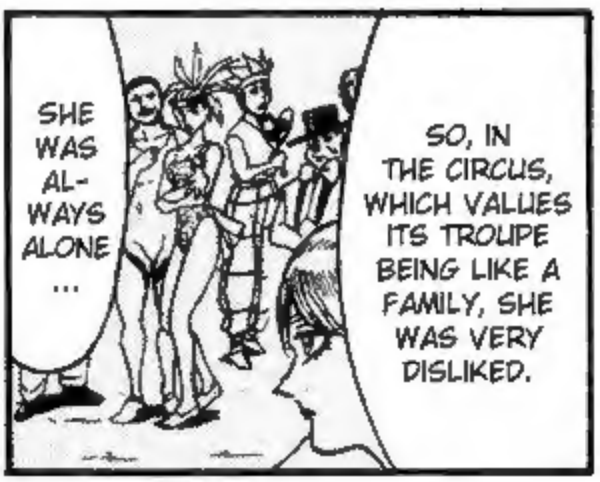
BUT SHE WAS NO GENTLE ANGEL WHO MADE PEOPLE FEEL AT EASE.

AT THAT MOMENT, I THOUGHT AN ANGEL HAD AP-PEARED BEFORE ME.
who the hell is that?


A FEELING THAT ALWAYS REPELLED PEOPLE...
BUT...
SHE WAS COLD...A KIND OF ATMOSPHERE AS THOUGH SHE WERE COVERED WITH PINS AND NEEDLES...

HER SKILLS WERE PERFECT, FROM WESTERN STYLE ACROBATICS TO CHINESE, AND SHE MATURED BRILLIANTLY.

YOU HAVEN'T EVEN NOTICED IT?!
WELL... MAYBE SOMETIMES...
HUMMM, WAS SHIROGANE EVER LIKE THAT?


SHE WAS ALWAYS ALONE ...
SO, IN THE CIRCUS, WHICH VALUES ITS TROUPE BEING LIKE A FAMILY, SHE WAS VERY DISLIKED.

4

ANYWAY, HER CHARM LIES IN HER ALOOF MANNER. SHE DOESN'T GET INVOLVED IN OTHERS' AFFAIRS. SHE HAS NO INTEREST IN THEM.
What's with those dubious eyes?!

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT DOING LAUNDRY BY HAND YET...

I'M VERY SORRY, I WASHED THEM...
SHIROGANE, WHERE ARE MY PANTS?
WELL... UM?

DO YOU ALL HAVE ANYTHING TO DO TODAY?
SH-SHE DOESN'T INTERFERE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS, SHE'S ALWAYS SUPER COOL...
THAT'S WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT HER.
I'M SORRY, I THOUGHT I'D DO THESE TOO ... AND THIS HAPPENED.
IT DIDN'T GO WELL, SO YOU MAY NOT WANT TO EAT SOMETHING SO STRANGE...
WELL, I THOUGHT I WOULD MAKE THESE FOR LUNCH...
NAH, WE'VE GOT NOTHING PLANNED.
SHE'S SELFISH... LIKE A ROYAL PRINCESS...
DON'T YOU GET LONELY LIKE THIS?
SAY, SHIROGANE. YOU NEVER LET ANYONE BUT ME NEAR YOU.
YUM-MY!
NO, WE'LL EAT 'EM, WE'LL EAT 'EM!
THIS IS...

SPENDING TIME LIKE THAT...IS POINTLESS FOR ME.
TRYING TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH OTHERS—
スル
WELL, AS LONG AS I HAVE THE KEY TO YOUR HEART, IT'S OKAY.
NOT REALLY ...
THAT'S THE KIND OF THING SHE'D ALWAYS SAY ...
S-SO COOL, SHIROGANE...
THAT IS QUITE SUFFICIENT.
MY AFFAIRS ARE MY BUSINESS,
AND THOSE OF OTHERS ARE THEIR BUSINESS.

G'MORNING, VILMA-SAN.
MY, AREN'T WE LIVELY.
SHIROGANE, YOU GOOF.
OH MY, IS THAT SO? I THOUGHT THE YOUNG MASTER WOULD LIKE IT ...
THAT'S NO GOOD, SHIROGANE, YOU WENT AND PUT THE MORNING GLORY SEEDS RIGHT INTO THE WATER.
WAIT, WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS PEACE AND HARMONY?
あはは

EYES LIKE ICE!
OH?! YES, THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE FACE, SHIROGANE!
IT'S A FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CAR! WE'RE GONNA GET A CAR!
SHI-RO-GA-NEEE!
NO WAY! LISTEN HERE...
PLUS, ISN'T SHE ACTING LIKE YOU'RE INVISIBLE?
HEY, NAOTA, BUDDY, SHIROGANE'S NOTHING LIKE WHAT YOU WERE SAYING!
7
YOU... WOULD LIKE ME TO BE IN IT?
SA~Y, THINGS WOULD BE LOT EASIER IF WE GOT A CAR...
CALM DOWN, MASA-RU.
THERE'S THIS EVENT AT THE BEACH, IT'S SOME-THING CALLED THE BEACH QUEEN CONTEST! YOU GET A CAR IF YOU WIN IT!
YOUNG MASTER!
わたわたあひてひ
FUFUN... THIS BRAT DOESN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT SHIRO-GANE EITHER.
Y-YEAH. ALTHOUGH, I DON'T KNOW JUST WHAT KIND OF COMPETITION IT IS...

YES, IT'S VERY EASY
SHIROGANE, YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL, IT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING BUT WAVE.
THAT'S RIGHT YOU'D BE RIDING IN THE VERY FIRST CAR.
THE ROLE OF THE PARADE GODDESS?
I DECLINE.
EH?
REALLY, EVEN A PUPPET COULD DO IT.
TURN THEM DOWN, SHIRO-GANE!
THAT'S IT! THAT GREAT PRIDE, THAT COOLNESS! I'M HEAD OVER HEELS FOR IT!
I AM A PER-FOR-MER.
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE A PUPPET.
TURN 'EM DOWN!
SHOW THESE GUYS YOUR COLD CHARM.

わあ
あああ
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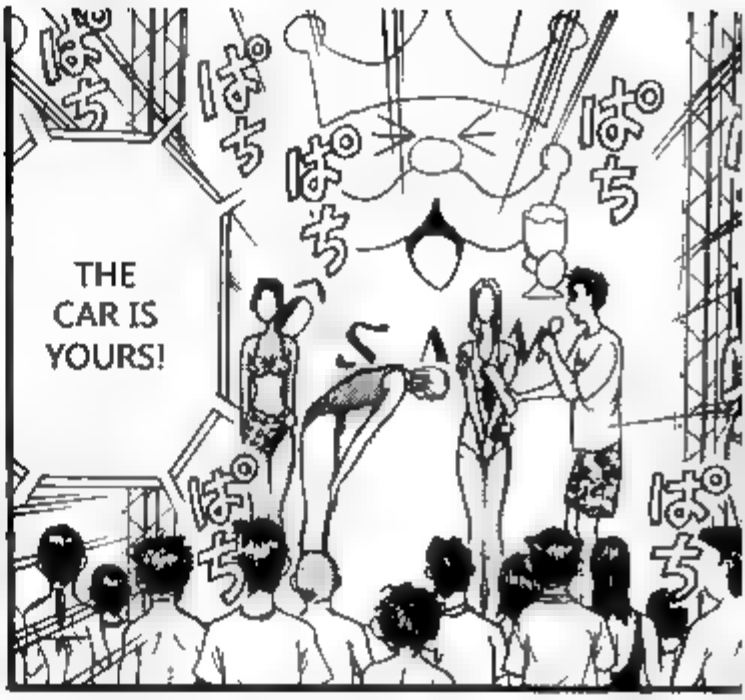
ぱち
OSAMA BEER
BEACH QUEEN CONTEST
NOW, HERE IS OUR FINAL ENTRY!
JUST A SECOND HERE ...
W-WAIT ...
YES, THANK YOU, CONTESTANT #19!

I'M #20... SHIRO-GANE.

HOW DID THIS END UP HAPPENING ...

ピロピロピロピロ
AND THE JUDGES ARE UNANIMOUS!
香員席
SHIROGANE IS THE WINNER!
OSAMA
MY TALENT IS MY FLEXIBLE BODY.
Ô
審査員席

I'D SCOUT HER FOR OUR TALENT AGENCY IN A SECOND.
THAT GIRL'S GOT SOME-THING.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THE CAR IS YOURS!
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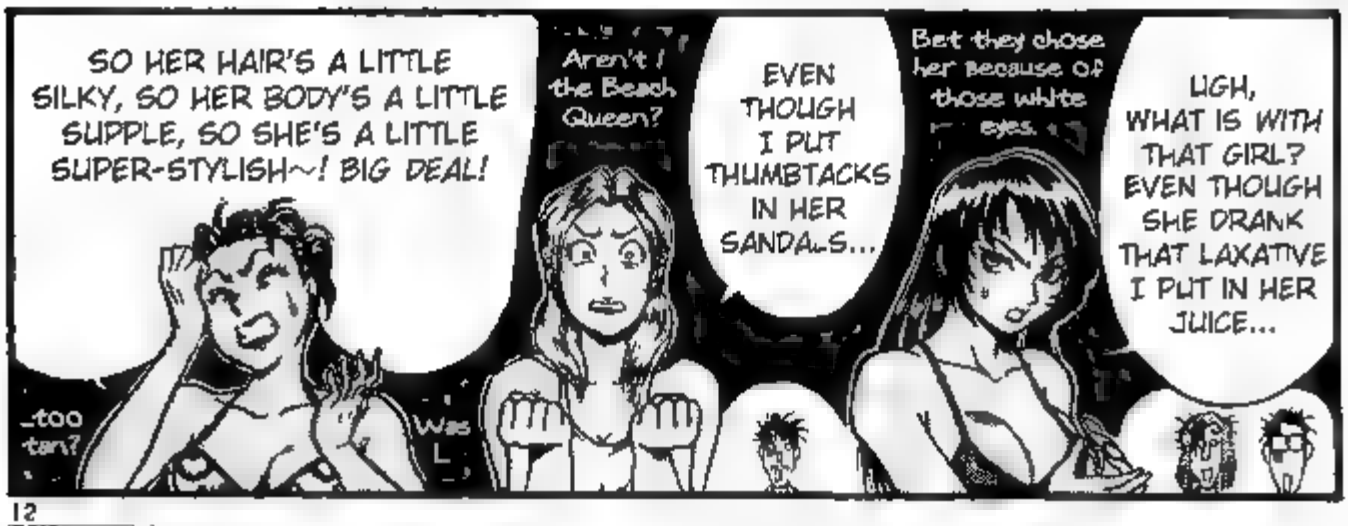

SO HER HAIR'S A LITTLE SILKY, SO HER BODY'S A LITTLE SUPPLE, SO SHE'S A LITTLE SUPER-STYLISH~! BIG DEAL!
-too tan?
Was I -?
Aren't I the Beach Queen?
EVEN THOUGH I PUT THUMBTACKS IN HER SANDALS...
Bet they chose her because of those white eyes.
UGH, WHAT IS WITH THAT GIRL? EVEN THOUGH SHE DRANK THAT LAXATIVE I PUT IN HER JUICE...

12

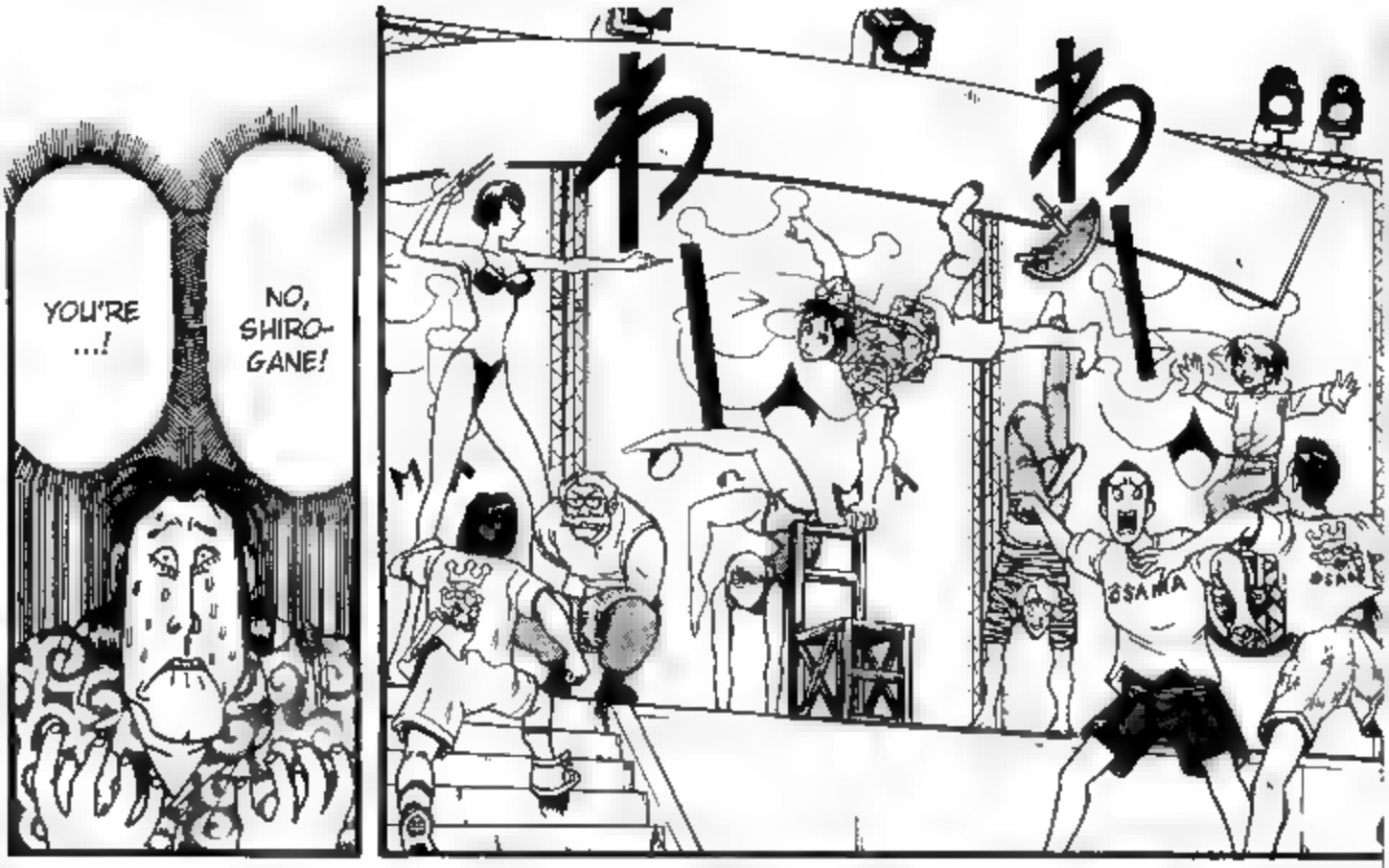
I...
WILL BE RIDING IN THIS CAR WITH MY FAMILY.

NOW, SHIROGANE-SAN, SOME WORDS OF CELEBRATION, PLEASE! WHO WILL BE RIDING IN THIS CAR WITH YOU? DON'T BREAK OUR HEARTS BY SAYING IT'S YOUR BOYFRIEND!
WE-LL ...

SOME-HOW SHE'S NOT THE SAME.
SHIROGANE... THOUGH SHE SEEMS PERFECTLY NATURAL...

WHY IS SHE SO DIFFERENT FROM THE OLD SHIRO-GANE?

BUT SOMEDAY, WE WILL SURELY BECOME A LARGE CIRCUS.
UM...
RIGHT NOW WE ARE SO SMALL THAT WE DO NOT EVEN HAVE A TENT .
MY FAMILY IS KNOWN AS THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS.
MY, THAT'S QUITE AN ANSWER...
THE NAKA-MACHI CIRCUS!
NOW INTRO-DUCING ...


YOU'RE ...!
NO, SHIRO-GANE!
わー
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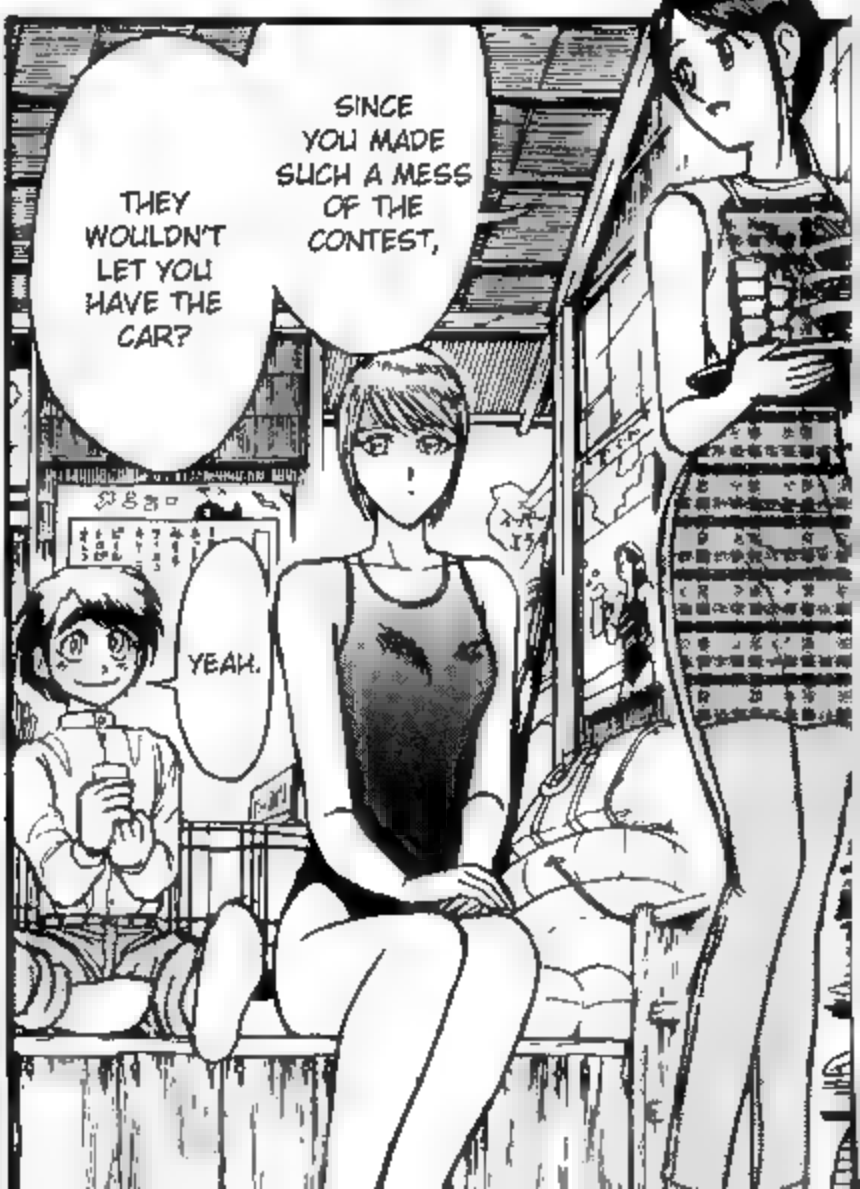
OSAKA
OSAKA

SO ...

THAT SOUNDS FUN. I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE IT... BUT I HAD WORK...
STILL, IT'S A SHAME ABOUT THE CAR.


SINCE YOU MADE SUCH A MESS OF THE CONTEST,
THEY WOULDN'T LET YOU HAVE THE CAR?
YEAH.

YES, SIR!
LISE-CHAN, THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK. YOU REALLY SAVED US.

DANKE ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
OH, WELL ...
WONDER IF WE GOT SO BUSY ALL OF A SUDDEN BECAUSE YOU'RE SO CUTE!
HERE YOU GO, YOUR WAGES FOR TODAY!
SHIROGANE SAYS WE SHOULDN'T PLAN ON GETTING THINGS JUST THROUGH RANDOM CHANCE.
WHAT IS IT?
NO ...
YOU MUSTN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND HALFWAY THROUGH, YOUNG MASTER.
...YEAH, I WAS WRONG AFTER ALL.
I THINK IT'S PROPER ...
TO EARN THINGS THROUGH ONE'S OWN ARTS.
THAT MAY BE... BUT, AS A PERFORMER ...
THAT'S...! I DON'T MIND IT AT ALL...
WE SHOULDN'T TRY TO GET THAT CAR FOR FREE.
THAT WHILE YOU'RE WORKING WITH YOUR OWN SWEAT, LISE-CHAN ...

Hii !!
OKAY!
HEY, WE'RE HAVING BARBE-QUE TODAY.
EVERY-ONE'S WAITING FOR US, LISE-SAN.
IT'S OKAY. SOMEHOW I FEEL SATISFIED ANYWAY.
BUT, WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN NICE...
TO GET THAT CAR?

PERHAPS I... USED TO REFUSE TO GET INVOLVED WITH OTHERS.
THAT'S... NOT VERY PLEASANT TO HEAR...
IN THE OLD DAYS... YOU KEPT PEOPLE AWAY... LIKE A COLD DOLL ...
YOU... HAVE CHANGED, SHIRO-GANE...

THEN I WOULD LIKE TO DO SO.
AND IF, THROUGH THOSE RELATION-SHIPS, I AM ABLE TO CHANGE...
AND YET ...
EVEN I CAME TO KNOW PEOPLE ...
HOW I FEEL NOW.
THAT IS...
YOU PAIR OF OCTOPUSES! YOU'RE RUINING A GOOD MOOD YEARS IN THE MAKING!
TRYIN' TO GET THE JUMP ON US, EH?!
NAOTA, YOU BASTARD, WE THOUGHT YOU WERE TAKING YOUR TIME!
I SEE... SHIROGANE, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY.
THE NEW YOU IS EVEN BETTER!

〈掲載・週刊少年サンデー平成12年1号〉

translation by funnyraba tumblr.com

I will do my best to continue Karakuri Circus as long as my skills are up to the challenge.
Please bear with me as I learn how to do all of this.
I will do my absolute best but please bear in mind that I am far from an expert in Japanese

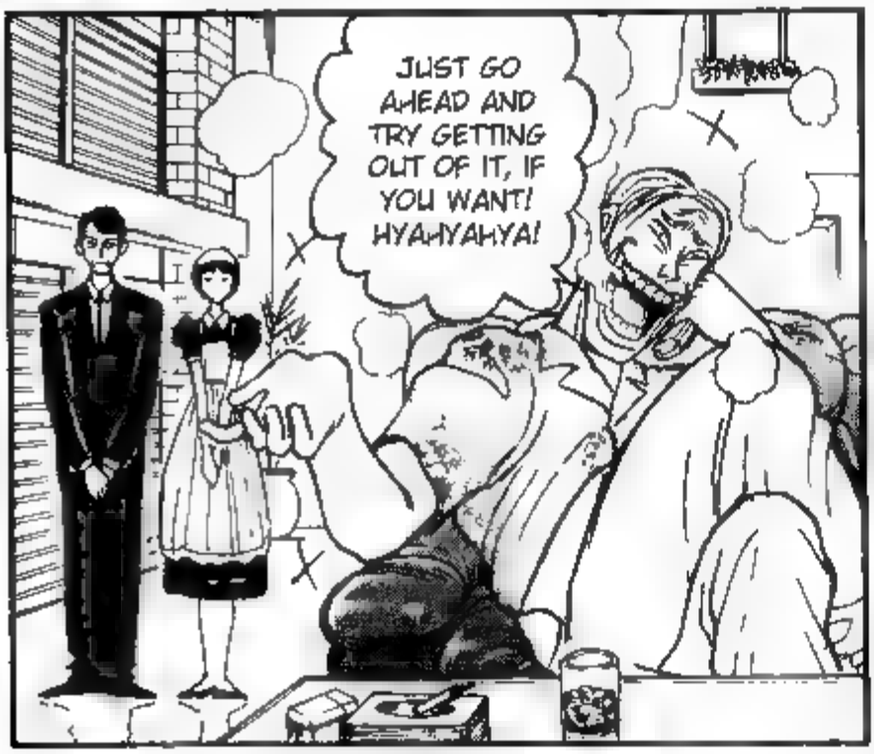
Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves

Circus～
サーカス～

Masaru and Shirogane's
Peaceful Days
マサルとしろがねの平穏な日々

第1幕 開幕ベル

Act 1: Opening Bell


JUST GO AHEAD AND TRY GETTING OUT OF IT, IF YOU WANT! HYAHYAHYA!

IT'S NO GOOD.
YOU CAN'T DO ANY-THING TO WITH-DRAW FROM THAT CON-TRACT.

TCH, WHO FROM?
ZENJI-SAMA, A PRIVATE CALL FOR YOU.

IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT SAIGA ELEC-TRONICS AND SAIGA TOYS WILL EXPAND TO FIRST PLACE IN THE WORLD OF BUSINESS.
THEY CAN'T DO A THING AGAINST ME.
ピュー

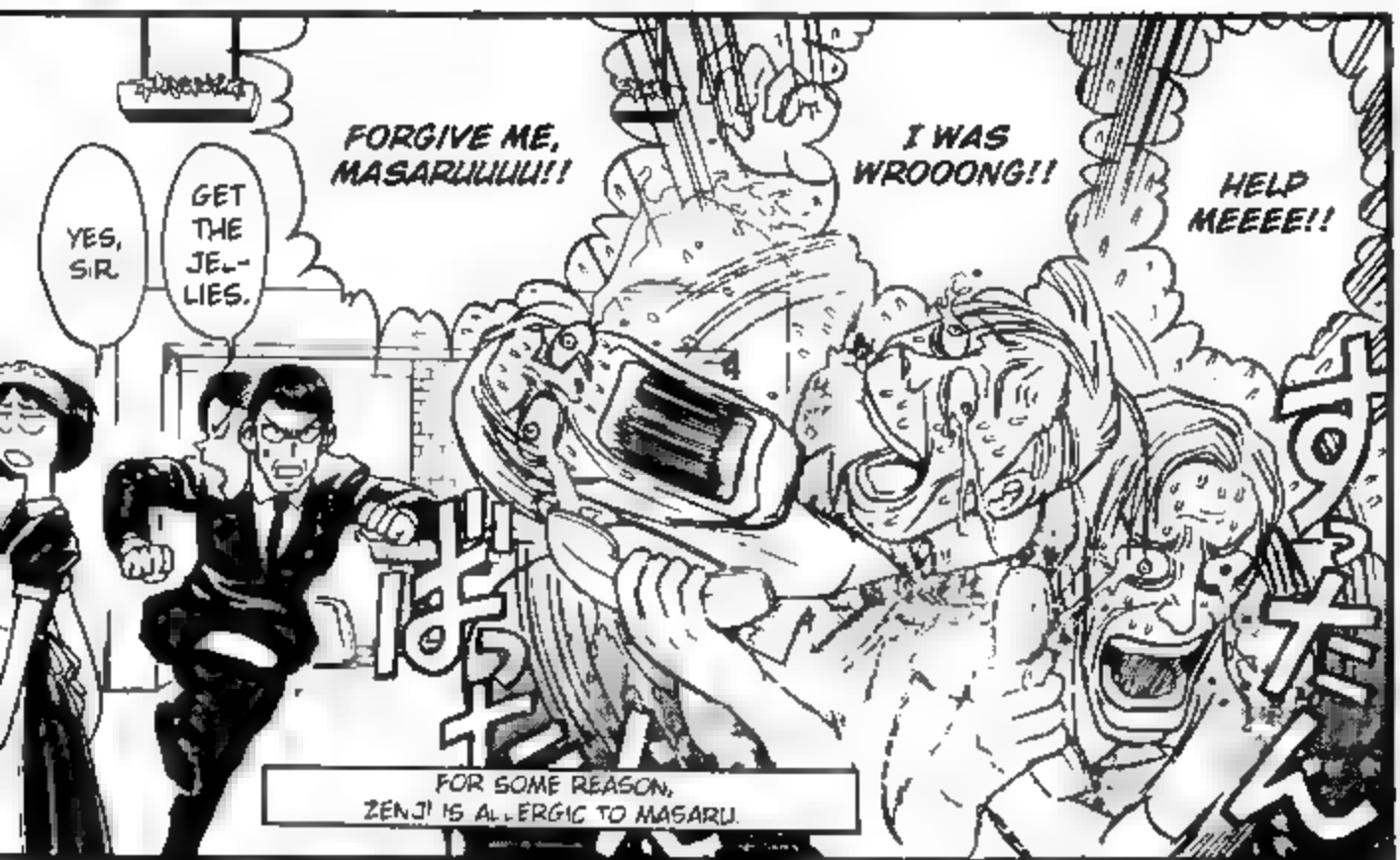
SHH. IT'S JUST HIS WAY. ZENJI-SAMA IS ALMOST COMPELLED TO RETURN TO BORDERLINE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES.
ZENJI-SAMA SEEMS TO HAVE GONE BACK TO HIS EVIL FACE...
ひけけけけ

2

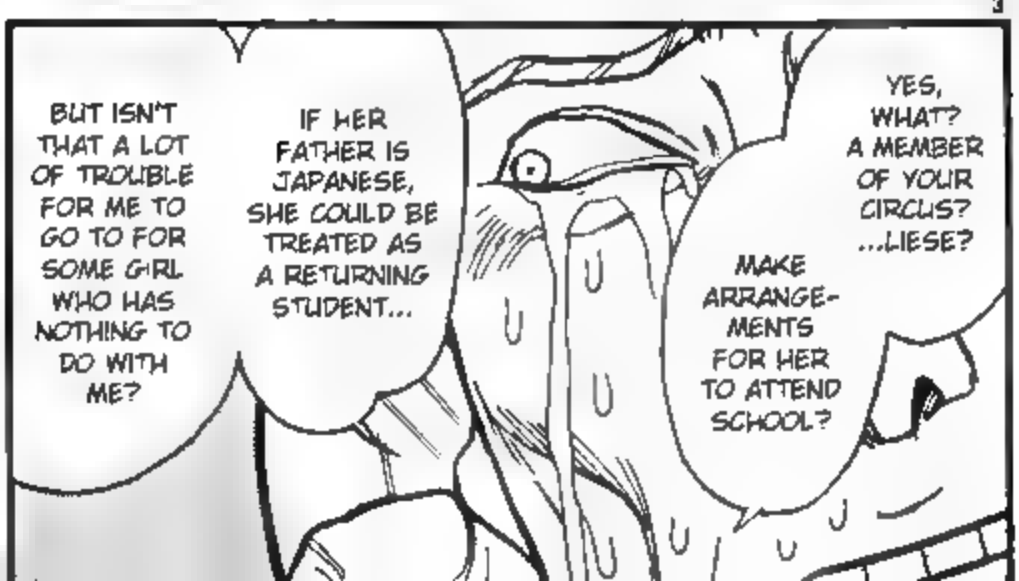
FETCH ME THE FINEST CHAMPAGNE AND THE STRAW-BERRY JELLIES. I WISH TO ROLL THEM ON MY TONGUE.

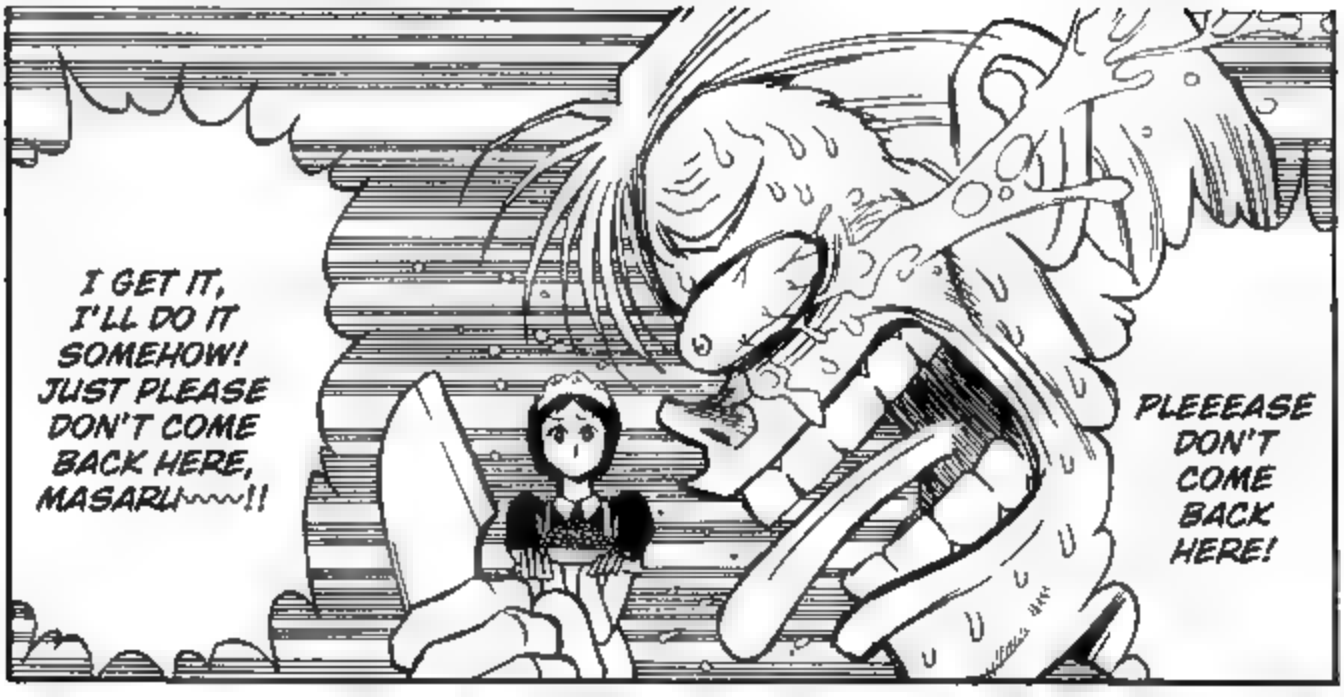
ぼっ

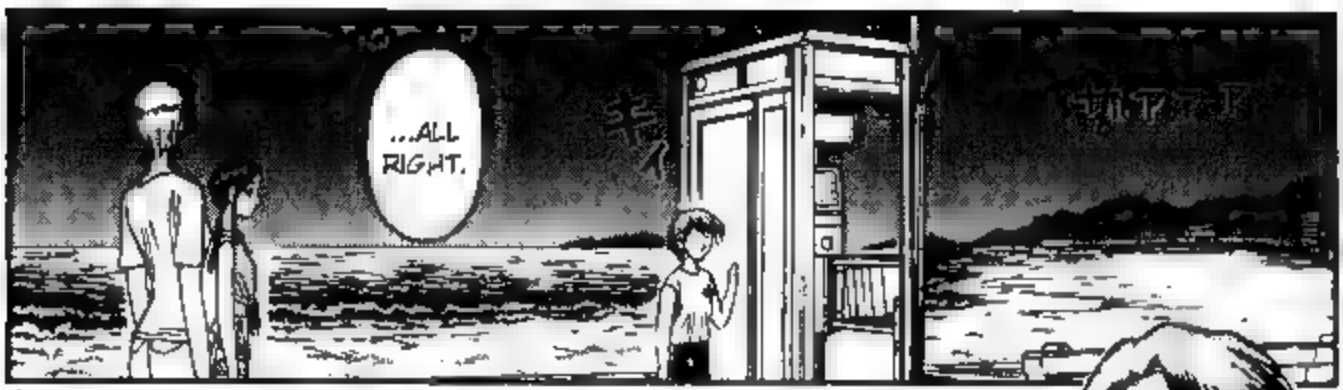
HELLO, UNCLE. IT'S ME, MASARU!
YES, IT'S ME.

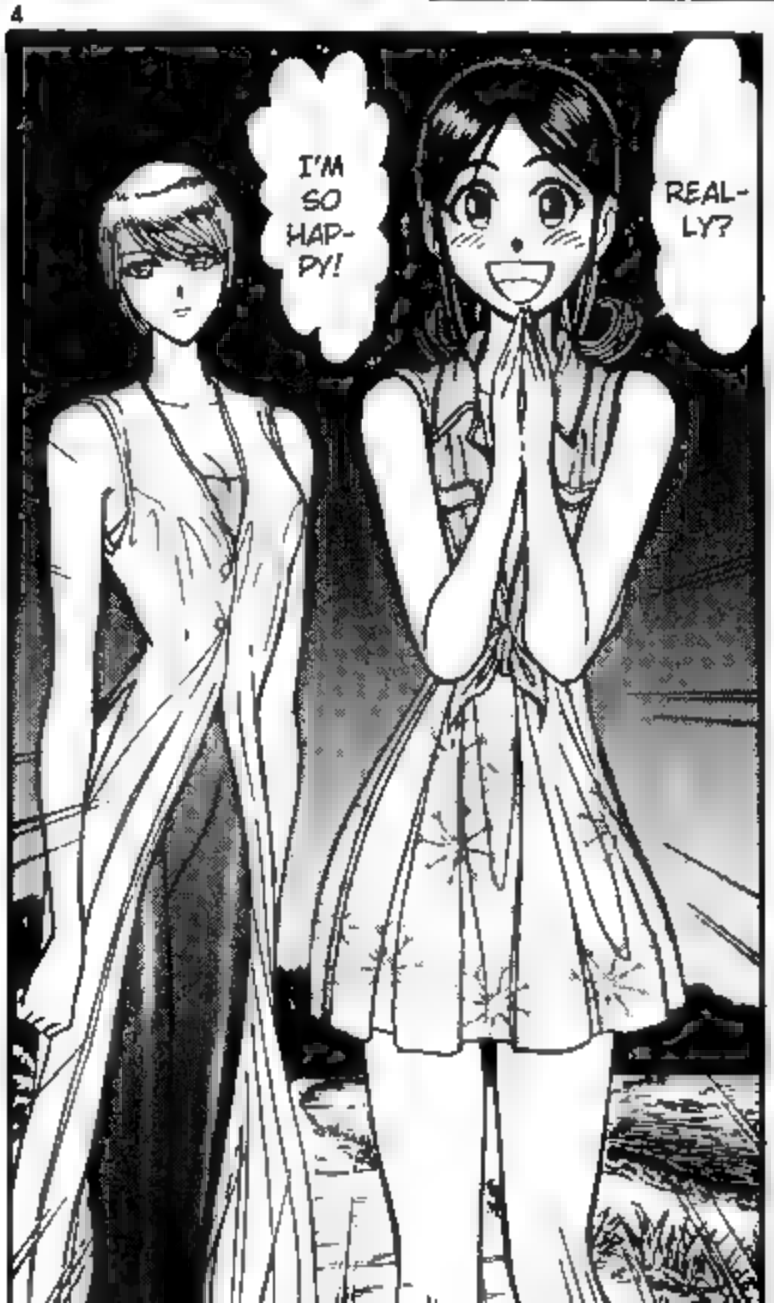

FORGIVE ME, MASARUUUU!!
I WAS WROOONG!!
HELP MEEEE!!
YES, SIR.
GET THE JE-LIES.
ぼっ
FOR SOME REASON, ZENJI IS ALLERGIC TO MASARU.

WHAT? COME... BACK... TO ME?


BUT ISN'T THAT A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR ME TO GO TO FOR SOME GIRL WHO HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME?
IF HER FATHER IS JAPANESE, SHE COULD BE TREATED AS A RETURNING STUDENT...
MAKE ARRANGE-MENTS FOR HER TO ATTEND SCHOOL?
YES, WHAT? A MEMBER OF YOUR CIRCUS? ...LIESE?

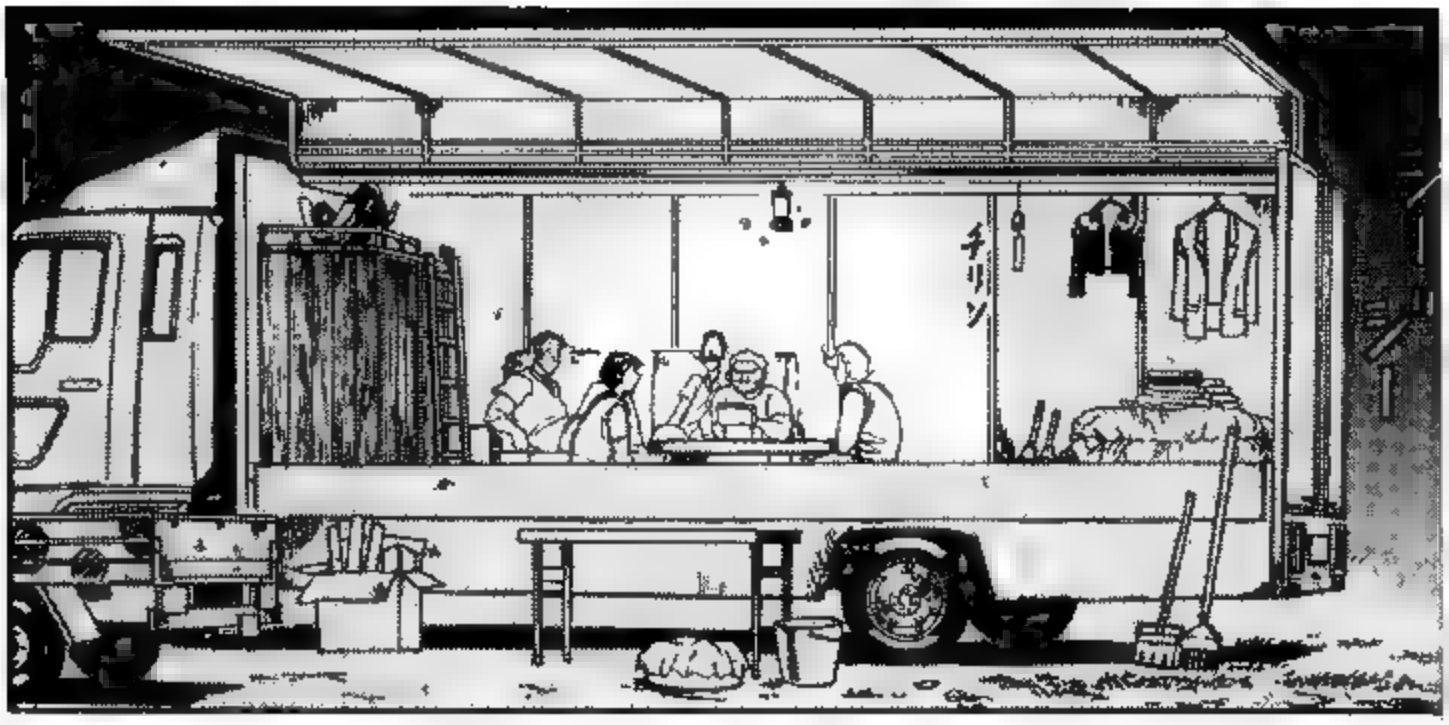

I GET IT, I'LL DO IT SOMEHOW! JUST PLEASE DON'T COME BACK HERE, MASARU~~~!!
PLEEEASE DON'T COME BACK HERE!


...ALL RIGHT.


I'M SO HAP-PY!
REAL-LY?

I MADE IT HAPPEN SOMEHOW, LIESE-SAN.

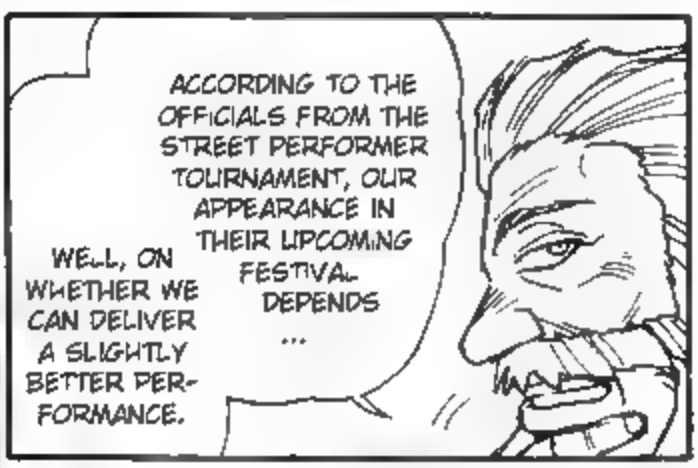
THAT'S GREAT.
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD BE ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL!
SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS NOT ENOUGH TROUBLE FOR THAT MAN.
HE DID TERRIBLE THINGS TO YOU, YOUNG MASTER.
BUT I ASKED SOME TROUBLESOME FAVORS FROM UNCLE ZENJI AGAIN...
AH...
THIS IS THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WHERE I'LL BE GOING.
アア
A POOL ...
EH?
SAY, DO YOU TWO MIND GOING ON AHEAD OF ME?
.....
BOY, IT'S HOT.
ジーワ


チリン

AW-RIGHT!
ALL RIGHT, THANKS TO THAT HARD WORK AT OUR PART-TIME JOBS OVER THE SUMMER, WE'VE MANAGED TO SAVE UP A LITTLE MONEY.

かしん

WE WON'T TAKE ANY MONEY WE HAVEN'T EARNED THROUGH OUR CIRCUS.
HAVEN'T I SAID I'LL LEND YOU SOME ANY TIME?
SO ALOOF, NAKAMACHI. IF YOU NEED MONEY,
Wasn't the old man willing to steal it before?
It wasn't like this then


ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIALS FROM THE STREET PERFORMER TOURNAMENT, OUR APPEARANCE IN THEIR UPCOMING FESTIVAL DEPENDS ...
WELL, ON WHETHER WE CAN DELIVER A SLIGHTLY BETTER PERFORMANCE.

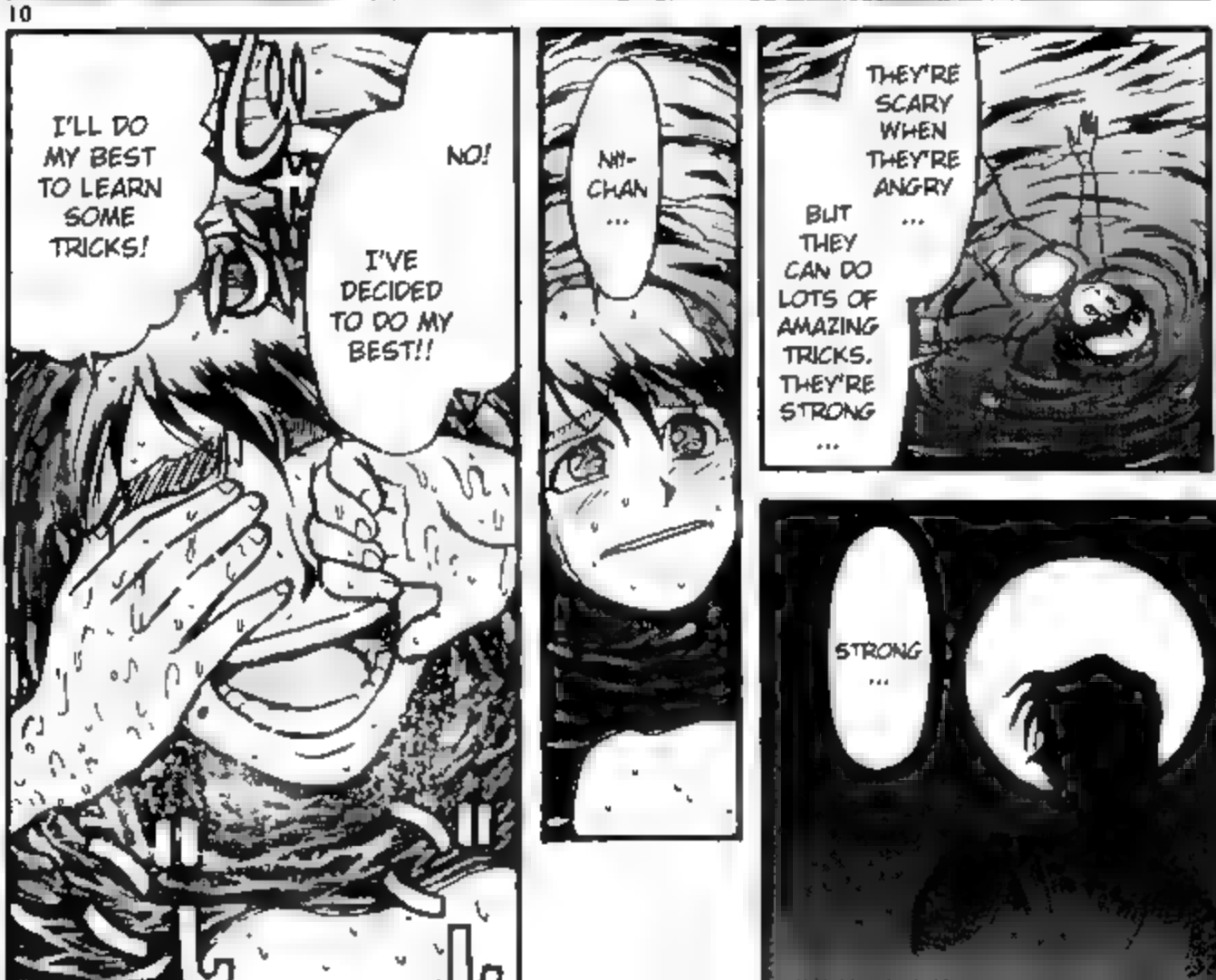
THE BANKRUPT DUO CAN SHUT IT.
SO TRUE, PAPA.
WELL, IT SHOULD BE FINE, SINCE WE'LL BE JOINING IN.

WITHOUT A PROPERTY MAN, WE CAN'T DO MUCH.
HMM, THAT'S TRUE.
SURELY WE SHOULD FIX THE EQUIPMENT FIRST? IT'S SO SHABBY AND WORN OUT.
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, LET'S GET A TENT.
WE SHOULD HAVE A TENT PITCHED.
YEAH, YEAH, HE DEFINITELY LIVED SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.
THE BARKING GEEZER!!
OH, YEAH!
IS THAT AN IDEA YOU HAVE THERE, NAKAMACHI?
WAIT A MINUTE, WE'RE IN IZU, AREN'T WE? A PROPERTY MAN...
HM!
HE WAS SUPER SCARY!
BEFORE THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS WENT UNDER, WE HAD AN OLD MAN IN CHARGE OF PROPS.
WHO'S THIS?
THE PERSON WHO MAINTAINS AND MANAGES THE EQUIPMENT AND COSTUMES.
PROPERTY MAN?
Oh! I understand.
7
I'LL BE ABLE TO GO!
OH, LIESE. HOW IS IT WITH SCHOOL?
HELLO, WE'RE BACK!
BUT HE DOESN'T THINK KINDLY OF ME.
GREAT!
OLD MAN UBUKATA...

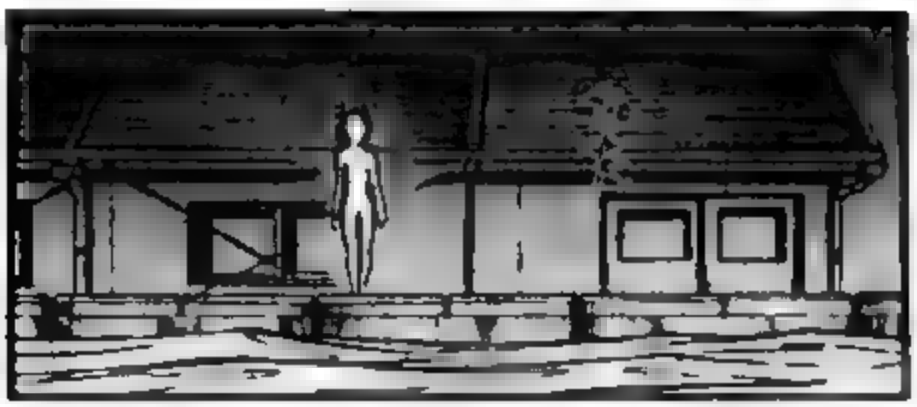
HM?
WELL, HE...
HUH? SHIRO-GANE, WHERE'S MASA-RU?
THAT'S GREAT.
ばしゃん
ちゃぶ
ちゃぶ
FEELS GREAT!
ばしゃ ばしゃ
I'VE WANTED TO DO THIS FOR A WHILE.
ALL RIGHT!

MY FRIENDS WOULD ALWAYS SAY, "YOU'RE SO OBEDIENT, MASARU."
SINCE I NEVER DID THINGS I WAS TOLD NOT TO...
BUT ...
I WONDER WHEN I STARTED WANTING TO DO THIS...
IT'S SINCE I'VE BEEN WITH NAKAMACHI-SAN AND THE OTHERS...
I GUESS...
A MAN MUST ALWAYS BE MAKING THIS KIND OF FACE.
MORE THAN THAT! MUCH MORE!!
MASARU, IF ANYONE TRIES TO START ANYTHING WITH YOU, KIND EYES ARE NO GOOD
THERE ISN'T ENOUGH FORCE IN YOUR USUAL FACE.
I USED TO BITE GUYS WHO BULLIED ME EVEN DURING CLASS.
BULLIES DON'T EXPECT YOU TO BITE BACK FOR SOME REASON.
BITE 'EM!
THEN DON'T LET GO NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY HIT YOU.
HYAHYA! THE SOLUTION'S VERY SIMPLE.
MASARU, HAVE YOU BEEN BULLIED?

GIRLS ARE JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO TELL IT TO THEM STRAIGHT
HIRO-SAN WILL TEACH YOU THE ART OF GRABBING A WOMAN'S HEART
MASARU, TELL ME IF THERE'S A GIRL YOU LIKE.
BUT DON'T GO TELLING SHIROGANE WHAT I SAID
THEY'RE SO FUNNY.
UFUFU ...
CAN YOU NOT TELL SHIRO-GANE I SAID THAT?
BUT... IT'S PRETTY HARD TO ACTUALLY TELL THEM.


I'LL DO MY BEST TO LEARN SOME TRICKS!
NO!
I'VE DECIDED TO DO MY BEST!!
NII-CHAN ...
THEY'RE SCARY WHEN THEY'RE ANGRY ...
BUT THEY CAN DO LOTS OF AMAZING TRICKS. THEY'RE STRONG ...
STRONG ...

I CAN CHANGE TOO...
NII-CHAN.



HM?

じゃぼん

A... A GHOST !?

ばしゃ

ばしゃ

IT'S... NOT A GHOST.
ばしゃ
ばしゃ

12
A! GIRL!? SHE'S ABOUT MY AGE...
UWAH!
UM... G-GOOD EVEN-ING.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?
YOU'RE GOING TO SCARE PEOPLE!
じゃぶ
AH... S-SORRY ABOU—
ガヤガヤ
PRETTY SNEAKY, MASARU, COMING HERE ON YOUR OWN.
WE WANNA GO SWIMMING AT NIGHT TOO!
FOOL, HOW CHILDISH OF YOU. BOTH OF YOU!
SAYS THE GUY ALREADY IN HIS SWIM TRUNKS.
ガっちゃ
ガっちゃ
GUYS ...
ガラ
AH...
たん

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY. I TRIED TO STOP THEM, BUT THEY CAME ANYWAY.
WHO WAS THAT GIRL?
NO IDEA ...
OKAY, HEEERE WE COME!

ビビビ
ビビビ
WHO IS SWIMMING IN THIS POOL AT NIGHT!?
HEY!

SURE WAS MYS-TERIOUS.
THAT GIRL ...

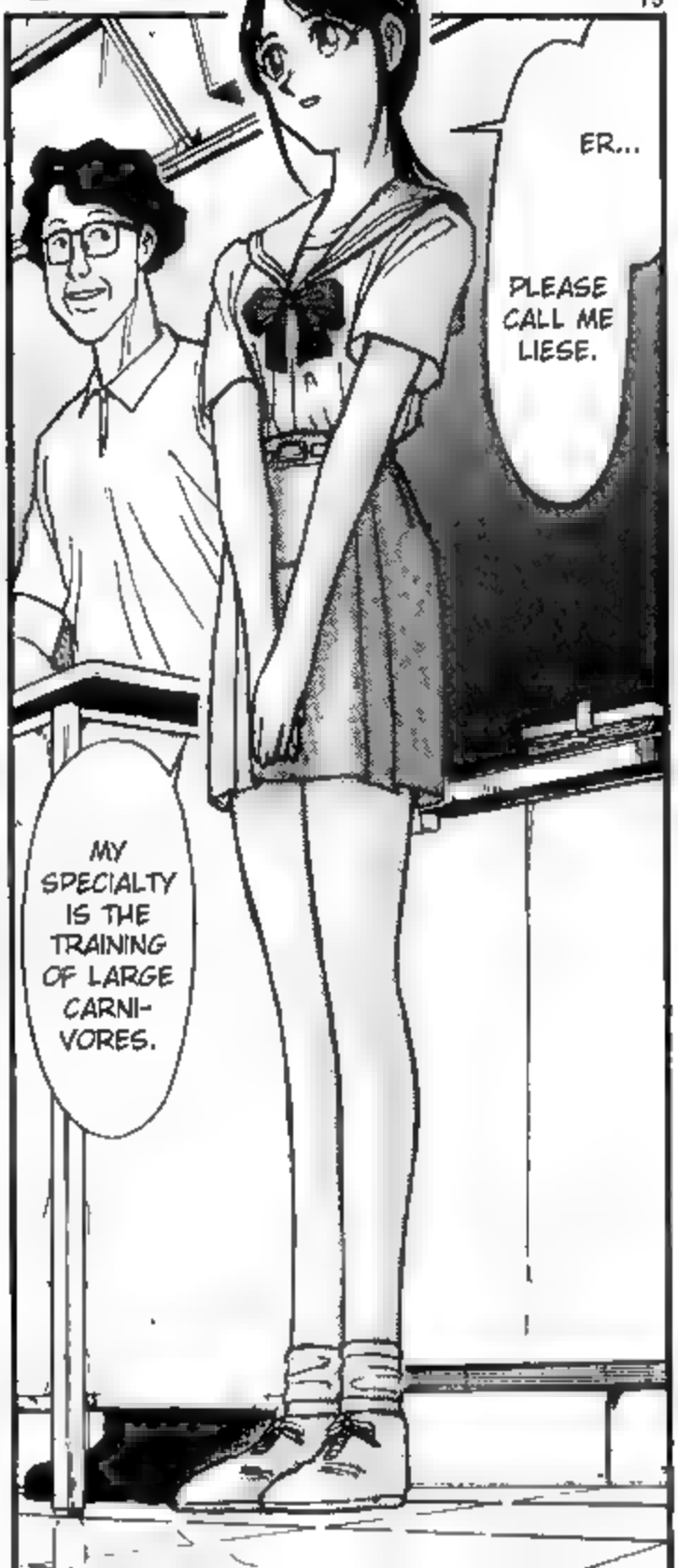
THERE WERE UPROARS IN THREE PLACES.
THAT DAY, IN A CERTAIN TOWN IN IZU...

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Talanda Liese Tachibana
HER NAME IS TALANDA LIESE-LOTTE TACHI-BANA.
...SO, FOR A WHILE, SHE...
WILL BE STUDY-ING WITH YOU ALL.
THE FIRST WAS IN A MIDDLE SCHOOL.

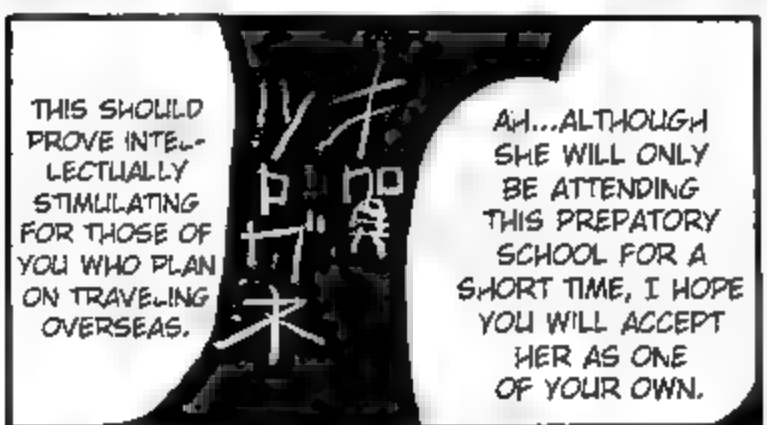
15

IT WAS ALL OVER THE NEWSPAPERS, AND THE RADIO AND TELEVISION TOO!
I KNOW HER!
THAT'S THE GIRL WHO BEAT THAT RUNAWAY TIGER ALL ALONE WITH HER LION!
HER FACE IS SO SMALL!
OOH, SHE'S SOO~ CUTE!
I'VE BEEN COLLECT-ING THE CLIP-PINGS!
I WANNA TALK TO HER!


ER...
PLEASE CALL ME LIESE.
MY SPECIALTY IS THE TRAINING OF LARGE CARNI-VORES.

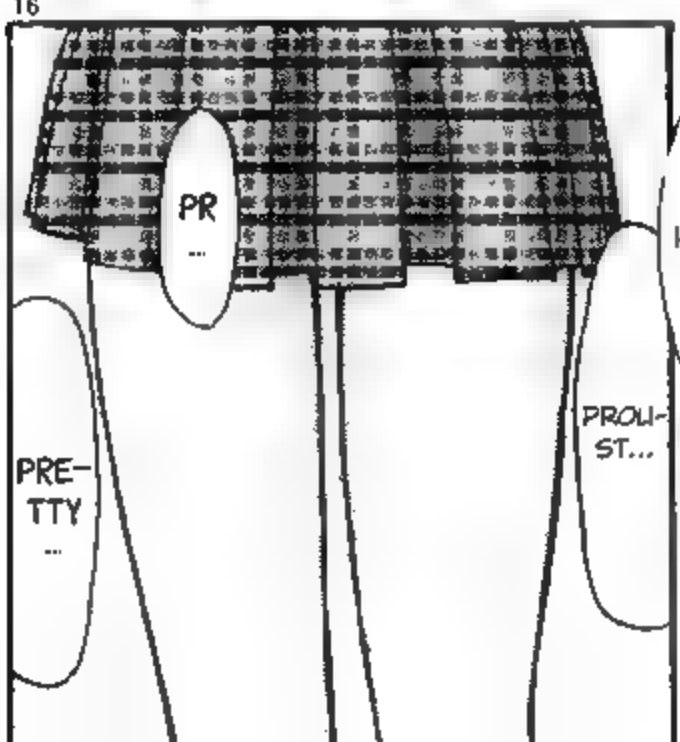
ALL RIGHT, HER SEAT WILL BE...

PLEASE GET ALONG, EVERY-ONE...
RIGHT HERE IS GOOD!


THIS SHOULD PROVE INTEL-LECTUALLY STIMULATING FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO PLAN ON TRAVELING OVERSEAS.
AH...ALTHOUGH SHE WILL ONLY BE ATTENDING THIS PREPATORY SCHOOL FOR A SHORT TIME, I HOPE YOU WILL ACCEPT HER AS ONE OF YOUR OWN.

THE SECOND WAS IN A HIGH SCHOOL.

16


PR...
PRETTY...
PROUST...

HUGO...
BAUDELAIRE...
VERLAINE...
COUNTRY OF PHILOSOPHY AND THE ARTS...
OH, SHE'S FROM FRANCE.

PLEASING TO THE EYE.
PULCHRITUDINOUS -
WHAT WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING!?
TEACHER! THE BOYS ARE...
I ENTRUST MYSELF TO YOUR CARE.
MY NAME IS SAIGA SHIROGANE.
DO YOUR BEST TO GET ALONG WITH HIM IN THE MEANTIME.
THIS IS SAIGA MASARU. BECAUSE HIS HOME IS A CIRCUS, HE WILL BE TRANSFERRING SCHOOLS AGAIN IN JANUARY.
THE THIRD WAS IN AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HELLO, I'M SAIGA MASARU.
I'M FROM THE NAKA-MACHI CIRCUS.
WOW ... A CIRCUS ...
ざわ
ざわ
がたん

AH!
HEY, WHAT IS IT...
UBU-KATA?

DID YOU SAY ...
THE NAKA-MACHI CIRCUS?
水をたいせつにしましょう。
SUMMER

UBU-KATA ...
RYOU-KO!

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

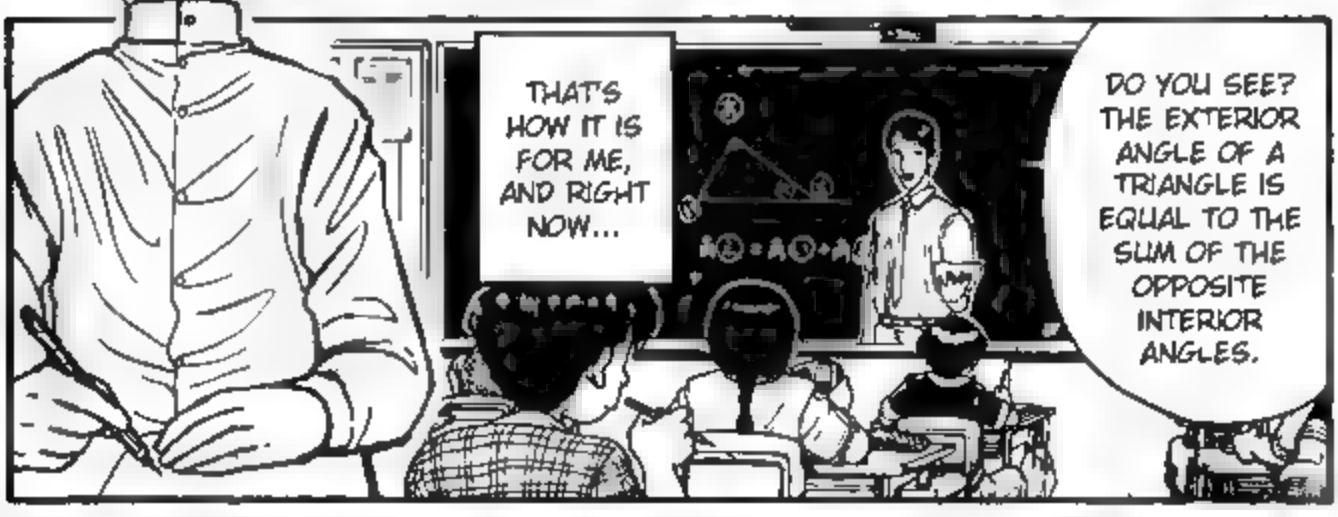
L.ese s name appears written on the chalkboard
in this chapter so it will be changed to reflect
that spell ng from now on. Obviously everyone
who worked on this took a gambie on
L selotte, but I don't think any of us were
expecting Ta.anda

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums
for removing the Japanese text. and to the
anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more expenence or skill
is welcome to take over at any time or
to redo chapters I have already done
if they are below the qua ity that
this series deserves

Act 2
Ryouko, the Rival

GOOD MORNING. IT'S MASARU, AND THIS IS MY FIRST DAY AT MY NEW SCHOOL. IT'S THE START OF SECOND TERM.
SHIROGANE AND LIESE-SAN ARE ALSO AT THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS.


DO YOU SEE? THE EXTERIOR ANGLE OF A TRIANGLE IS EQUAL TO THE SUM OF THE OPPOSITE INTERIOR ANGLES.
THAT'S HOW IT IS FOR ME, AND RIGHT NOW...

I'M IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION ...

2

す
UBUKATA-SAN, CAN I HELP YOU?
WE JUST MET AT NIGHT IN THE POOL, IT'S NOT LIKE I DID ANYTHING ...
カチ
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT UBUKATA-SAN WON'T STOP GLARING AT ME.

カマボコまゆげ
FISHPASTE EYEBROWS

す…

PLEASE STOP GLARING AT ME

ガヤーン
BE QUIET, SAIGA-KUN.

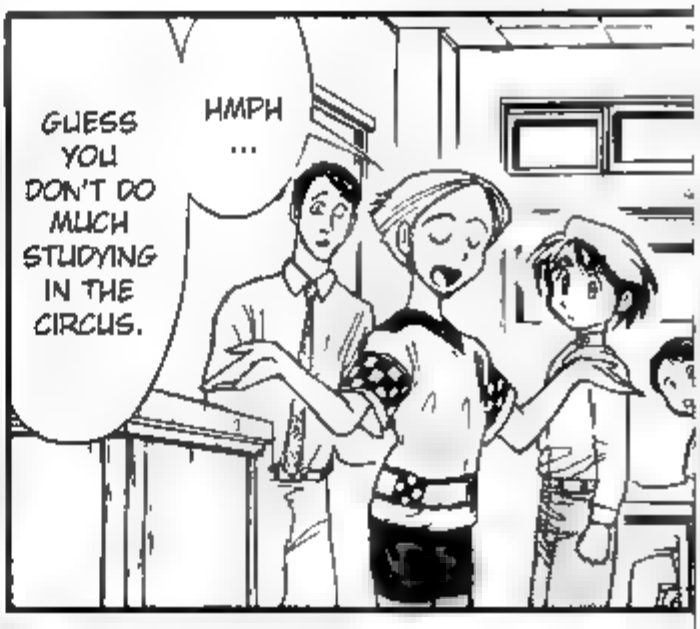
角あと角いの角度をもとめなさい
135°=70°+あ
135°-70°=あ
TH-THAT'S COR-RECT.
ガガガ

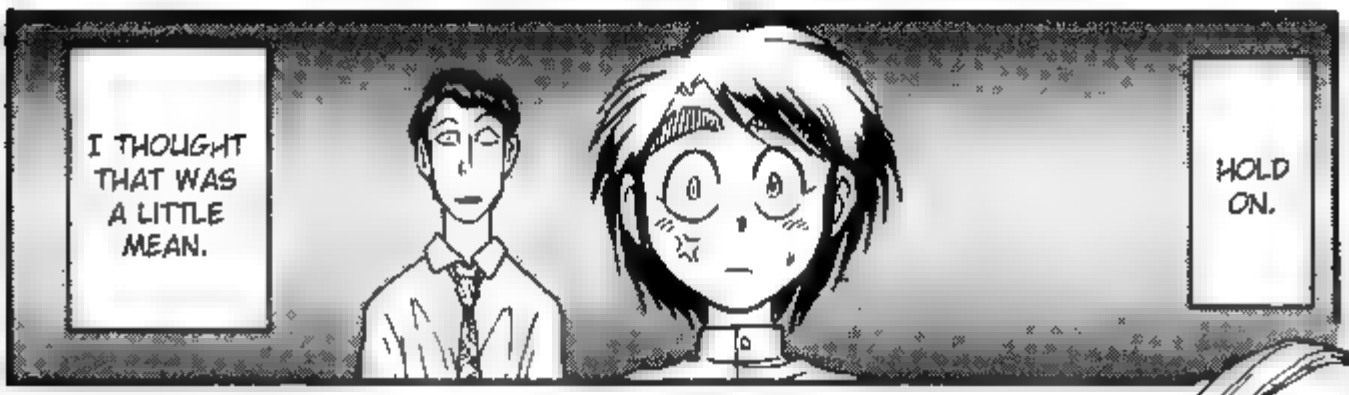
SAIGA-KUN, WHY DON'T YOU SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.
THE PERVERT'S NAKED MIDNIGHT POOL PARTY
ガタッ

3

TEACHER, I'LL DO IT!
AH... SORRY, I...
ガタガタ

DON'T YOU HAVE ANYONE TO TEACH YOU?

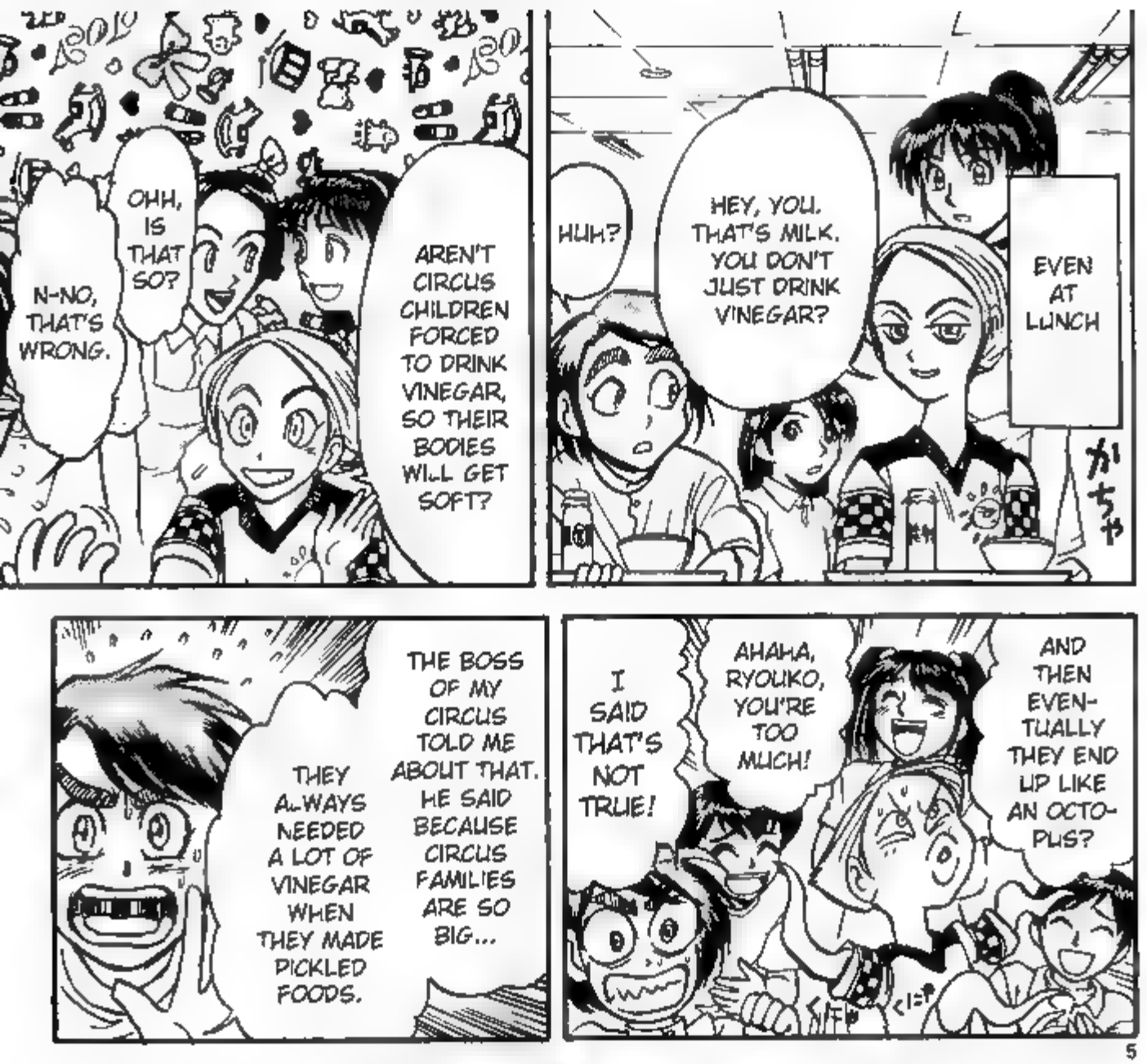

HMPH ...
GUESS YOU DON'T DO MUCH STUDYING IN THE CIRCUS.


I THOUGHT THAT WAS A LITTLE MEAN.
HOLD ON.

SHE'S CHEERFUL, FRANK, AND THE MOST POPULAR PERSON IN CLASS.

UBUKATA-SAN IS THE CLASS PRESIDENT ...
BUT SHE STILL FINDS TIME TO STUDY. SHE'S AN HONOR STUDENT WHO TOOK THE GOLD MEDAL IN A NATION-WIDE WRITING CONTEST.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?
THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON I'M UP AGAINST.


N-NO, THAT'S WRONG.
OHH, IS THAT SO?
AREN'T CIRCUS CHILDREN FORCED TO DRINK VINEGAR, SO THEIR BODIES WILL GET SOFT?
HUH?
HEY, YOU. THAT'S MILK. YOU DON'T JUST DRINK VINEGAR?
EVEN AT LUNCH
かちや
THEY ALWAYS NEEDED A LOT OF VINEGAR WHEN THEY MADE PICKLED FOODS.
THE BOSS OF MY CIRCUS TOLD ME ABOUT THAT. HE SAID BECAUSE CIRCUS FAMILIES ARE SO BIG...
I SAID THAT'S NOT TRUE!
AHAHA, RYOUKO, YOU'RE TOO MUCH!
AND THEN EVEN-TUALLY THEY END UP LIKE AN OCTO-PUS?

FINE!
OH, SO WE'RE LOSING OUR TEMPER! WHAT SAY WE SETTLE THIS WITH A MILK CHUGGING CONTEST?
HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?
HMM, I WONDER. CIRCUS FOLK ARE JUST SO DIFFERENT FROM US. I REALLY DON'T KNOW ...
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE SAYING IT IS!
SO BECAUSE THEY ALWAYS BOUGHT SO MUCH OF IT, THE PEOPLE AT THE STORES MISUNDER-STOOD.
IT'S A VERY FAMOUS RUMOR, BUT IT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL IN MY CIRCUS!

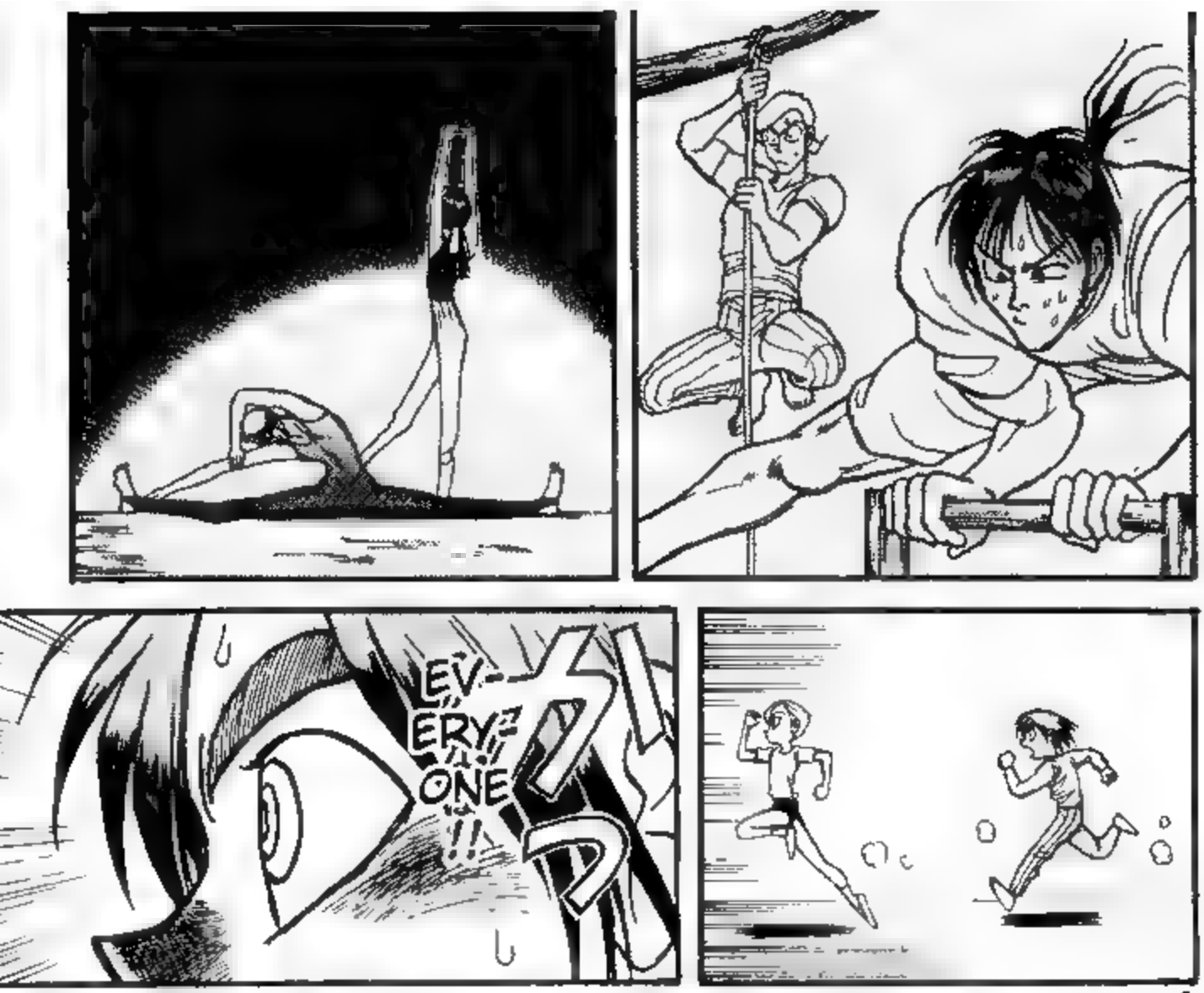
ぐびぐびぐびぐび
IF SOMEONE SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT THE CIRCUS, I—
GO!
BUT I WAS ABOUT TO LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT MYSELF.
AND ...
かちーん
ぶし
I CAN'T JUST KEEP QUIET!

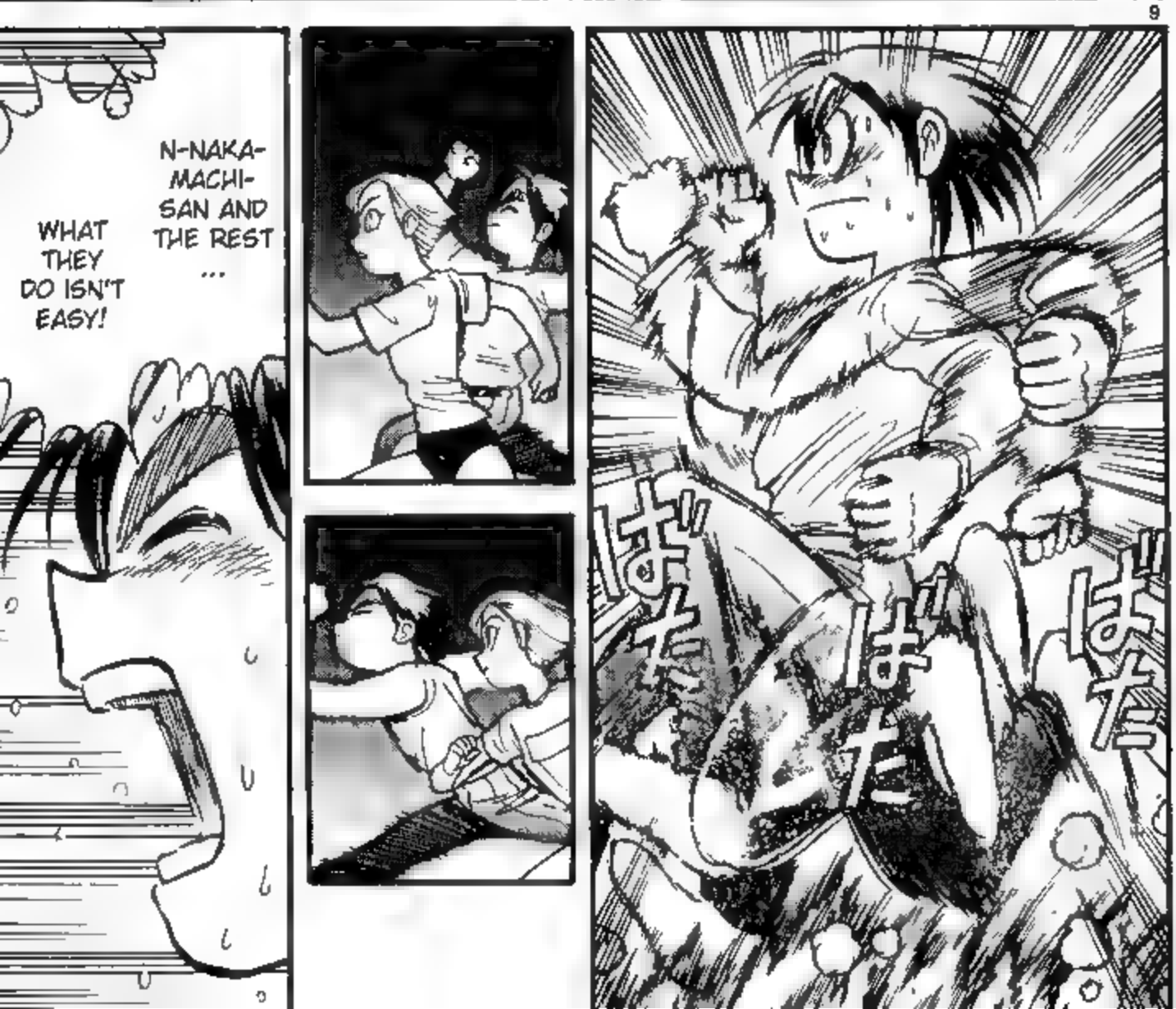
6

5TH PERIOD: PHYSICAL EDUCATION
ALL RIGHT, WE HAVE OUR FITNESS TEST TODAY.
I WILL BE RECORDING IT.
Saiga, that's gross.
WHAT IS IT WITH THAT GIRL!?
IT'S MY WIN AFTER ALL~!
IT ISN'T ...

THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!
I THOUGHT THE CIRCUS HAD SPECIAL TRAINING FOR THE CHILDREN? WHERE THE RINGMASTER GETS AFTER YOU WITH THE WHIP?
OH, BUT ...
NO, NOT REALLY.
OH, NO! SAIGA-KUN, ARE YOU ANY GOOD AT SPORTS?
BECAUSE I HATE THEM!
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU?
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SAYING THESE THINGS ABOUT CIRCUSES !?
IF YOU SAY SO.
OUR RINGMASTER SAYS THAT BECAUSE OF THE CHILD WELFARE ACT, CHILDREN HAVEN'T BEEN FORCED TO WORK FOR A VERY LONG TIME!
7
SAIGA, YOU'RE UP. IT'S THE 50M DASH.
.....
I LOATHE CIRCUSES! AND THE PEOPLE IN THEM, TOO!
HUH?
IT'S FINE!
RYOUKO, WAIT A SECOND ...

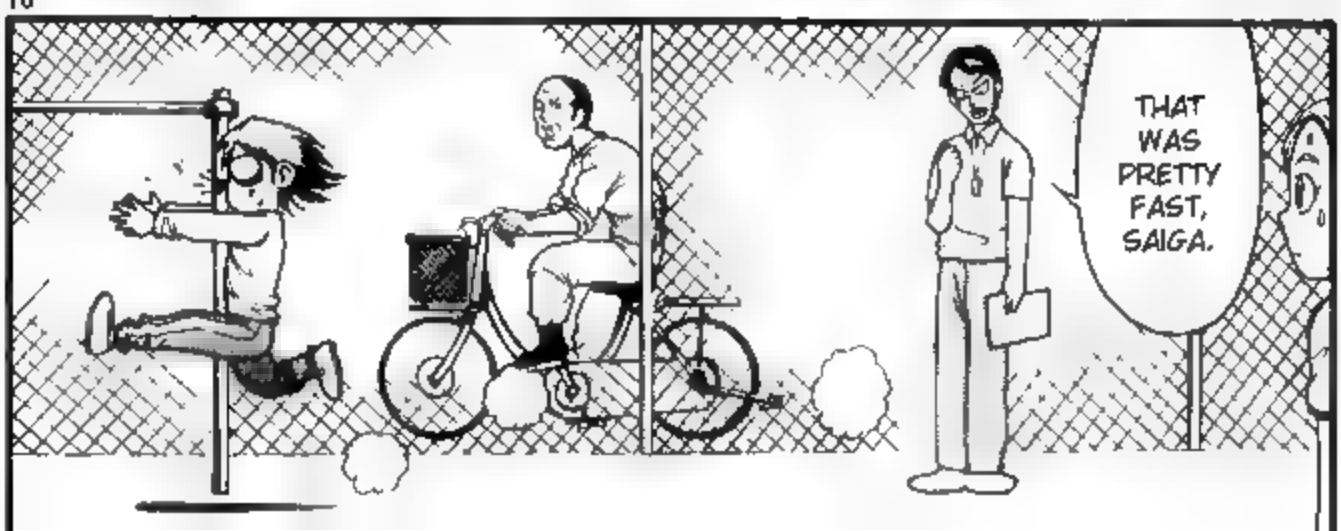
YOU HAVE YOUR CAREFREE LIVES OF TRAVEL, AND YOU ONLY LOOK OUT OF THE CORNER OF YOUR EYE AT PEOPLE WORKING HARD AT HONEST JOBS. YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT THEM.
SO ...
I HATE THAT SNOBBY AIR THAT CIRCUSES HAVE.
YOU AND I ARE LIVING IN DIFFERENT WORLDS ...
LIBUKATA ... DON'T MESS AROUND.
THAT YOU PERFORMERS ARE NOTHING SPECIAL AT ALL.
I WANT TO SHOW YOU...
CIRCUSES MAY BE STRANGE.
I MEAN, I'VE NEVER MET A PERSON WHO HATES THE CIRCUS SO MUCH.
THAT'S A SURPRISE!
START!
EVERYONE AT THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS ...
BUT


EV-
ERY-
ONE
!!


WHAT THEY DO ISN'T EASY!
N-NAKA-MACHI-SAN AND THE REST ...
ばた
ばた
ばた

最後まで…
ちゃんとやるもんだよ。

DON'T LOOK DOWN ON THEM!!


THAT WAS PRETTY FAST, SAIGA.

ヒュー

.....
UBUKATA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ALL THIS MESSING AROUND ...
IT JUST ISN'T LIKE YOU.

ARE YOU OKAY, SAIGA?
HEEHEE... I GOT A LITTLE TOO EXCITED ...

HEY! UBU-KATA!
TEACHER, I DON'T FEEL WELL! I'M LEAVING EARLY!

きっ

IS THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS!
WHAT I ESPECIALLY HATE, SAIGA ...
THAT'S ... A CIRCUS'S TIGHT-ROPE-WALKING TECHNIQUE ...
するするする
THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS HASN'T EVEN PUT ON A PERFORMANCE YET!
.....! HOW...DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT OUR CIRCUS?
MAYBE SHE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH A CIRCUS?
RYOUKO'S NEVER ACTED LIKE THAT BEFORE.
I WONDER WHAT'S GOT RYOUKO SO MAD.
BOY, SAIGA, THAT WAS PRETTY BAD.
UBUKATA'S GRANDFATHER IS THE ONE WHO TAUGHT HER HOW TO WALK LIKE THAT...
MY MOM AND HERS ARE FRIENDS, SO I'VE HEARD A FEW THINGS.
AH!
BUT ISN'T HER FAMILY JUST A REGULAR OLD OFFICE WORKER FAMILY?

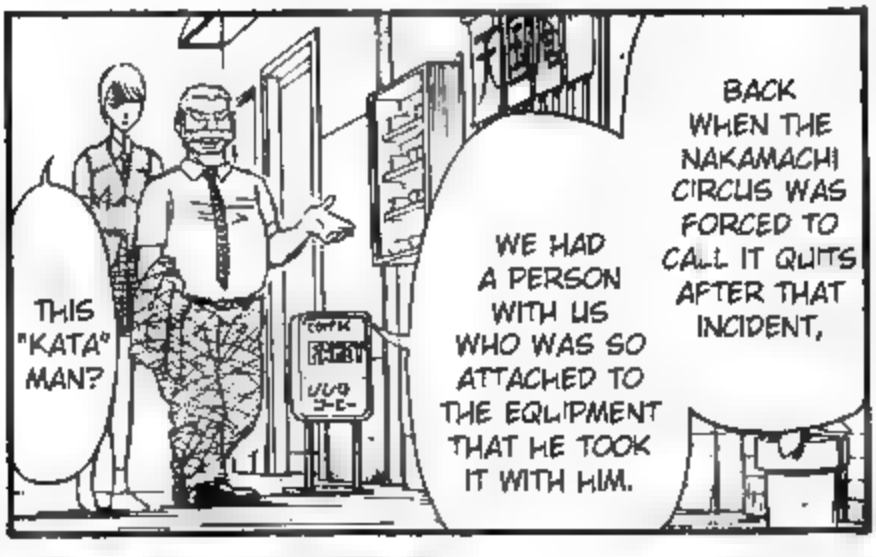
HER GRANDPA?
SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.
BUT I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOME-ONE JUST LIKE YOU.
I HAVE SO MUCH TO DO ALREADY ...
I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO REMEMBER TO COME.
HOW ABOUT IT? IN THE SPRING OF NEXT YEAR, I'D LIKE YOU TO COME CHEER FOR ME AT THE KOUSHIEN!

SH-SHIROGANE-SAN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO WALK HOME WITH US?
AMA-ZING. FIVE PEOPLE SHOT DOWN ON HER FIRST DAY.
SUGIMURA FROM THE BASEBALL CLUB BLEW IT TOO...
FROM UNDER THAT COLD BEAUTY, THERE'S A GREAT SENSE OF WARMTH THAT SOMETIMES PEEKS OUT.
THAT'S IT. THAT'S WHAT'S CONQUERED EVERYONE.
YES, LET US GO TO-GETHER.

AH. RING-MASTER.
SURE WOULD BE NICE TO BE THE GUY DATING HER.
BUT SUGIMURA COULDN'T DO IT EITHER.
HEY, SHIRO-GANE.

OH, I'M SORRY. DON'T MAKE THAT FACE.
I SEE.
I'M SORRY. I'LL BE LEAVING FROM HERE TODAY.
.....
SHIRO-GANE-SAN PREFERS ...
O-OLD ...
NOOO !!
SHIRO-GANE-SAN... NOOO!!
THIS CAN'T BEEE!
WAIT, EVERYONE! AGE IS NO OBJECT IN LOVE!
TIGHT-ROPE... WALK-ING?
15
YEAH, YOU CAN DO IT, CAN'T YOU? I WAS THINKING WE SHOULD ADD SOMETHING TO OUR REPERTOIRE FOR THE UPCOMING FESTIVAL.
AFTER ALL, IF WE'RE APPEARING IN A FESTIVAL AS A CIRCUS, WE SHOULD TAKE ADVAN-TAGE OF THE SPACE...
TO DO SOMETHING A BIT MORE FLASHY THAN A PUPPET SHOW.
THAT'S TRUE.
HIRO'S SPECIALTY IS ROPE, BUT ONLY THE CORDE LISSE.
AND NORI'S IS THE TRAM-POLINE, SO THAT'S USELESS.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE EQUIPMENT? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?
YEAH.


THIS "KATA" MAN?
WE HAD A PERSON WITH US WHO WAS SO ATTACHED TO THE EQUIPMENT THAT HE TOOK IT WITH HIM.
BACK WHEN THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS WAS FORCED TO CALL IT QUITS AFTER THAT INCIDENT,

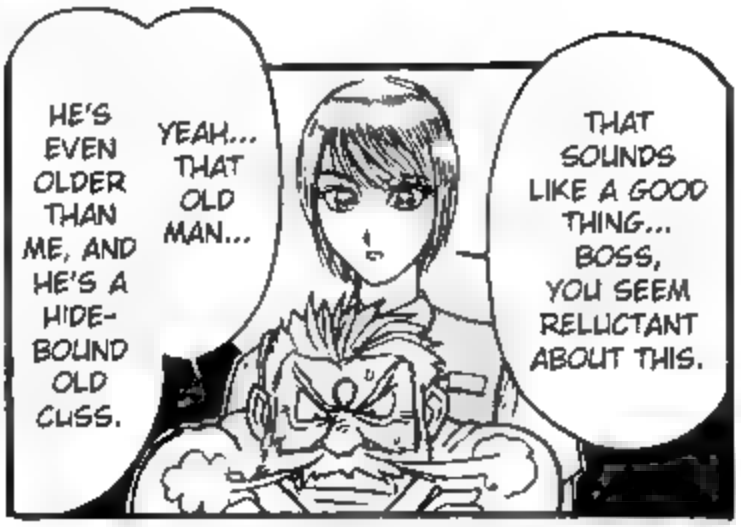
I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT, BUT IT'S HERE.

THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS'S FORMER PROPERTY MAN.
UBUKATA HOUAN.

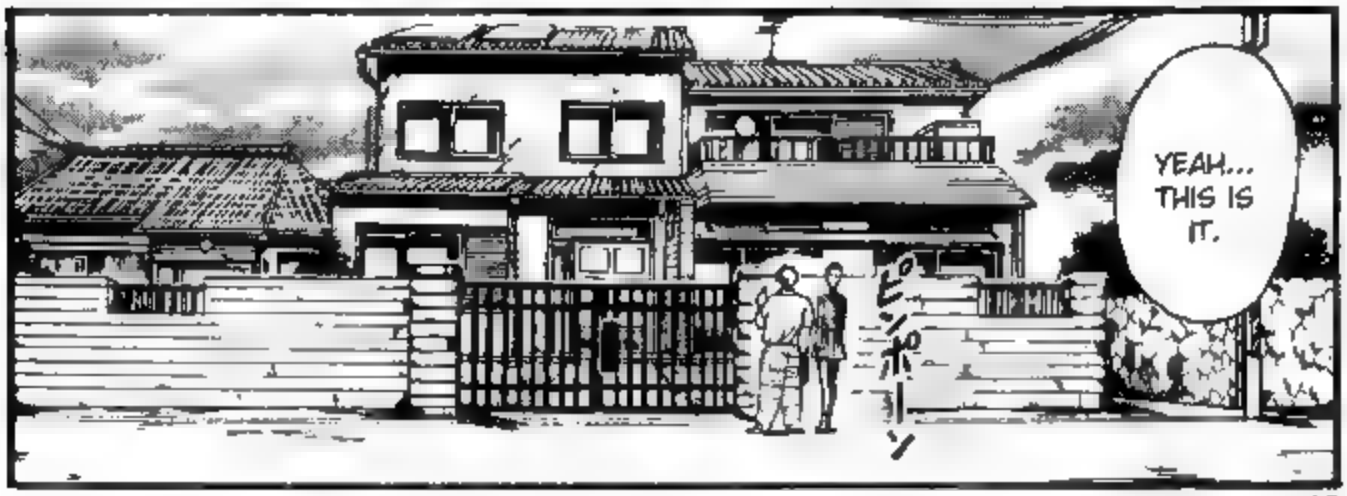
.....
WELL, THAT OLD MAN IS SUCH A FANATIC THAT HE WON'T DO THAT.

IF IT'S TOO BROKEN DOWN, YOU GIVE UP ON IT.
YOU KNOW... SHIROGANE, AS SOMEONE WHO USES CIRCUS EQUIPMENT, YOU LOOK AT ITS CONDITION, RIGHT?
HE'S SUPPOSED TO LIVE AROUND HERE.
YES.

HE HAS AN ENCYCLOPEDIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE CIRCUS, AND HE'S NOT SHY ABOUT SHARING IT. SO HIS NICKNAME IS "THE BARKING GEEZER."


YEAH... THAT OLD MAN...
HE'S EVEN OLDER THAN ME, AND HE'S A HIDE-BOUND OLD CUSS.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD THING... BOSS, YOU SEEM RELUCTANT ABOUT THIS.

ANGRY AT THE ONE WHO LOST CONTROL AND HIT THAT REPORTER WHEN FACED WITH THOSE NASTY RUMORS ABOUT "EATING HUMANS"...
AT THE RINGMASTER WHO DES-TROYED HIS CIRCUS... ME.
.....
AND THAT BARKING GEEZER IS GONNA BE MAD AT ME.


YEAH... THIS IS IT.
ピンポーン

ガチャ

HEH HEH, DON'T GIVE ME THAT HOPEFUL LOOK, SHIROGANE.

SO THEN, FOR THE SAKE OF THE CIRCUS, WE MUST ASK HIM FOR HIS AID.

GRANDPA ...
A MAN CALLING HIMSELF... NAKAMACHI SHINOBU... WANTS TO SEE YOU.
.....
WHA-A-AT?
NAKAMACHI HAS COME HERE...!?

translation by funnjraba tumblr com

The Koushien is the park where
Japan s national high school baseball
championships are held

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums
for removing the Japanese text. and to the
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Any group with more experience or skill
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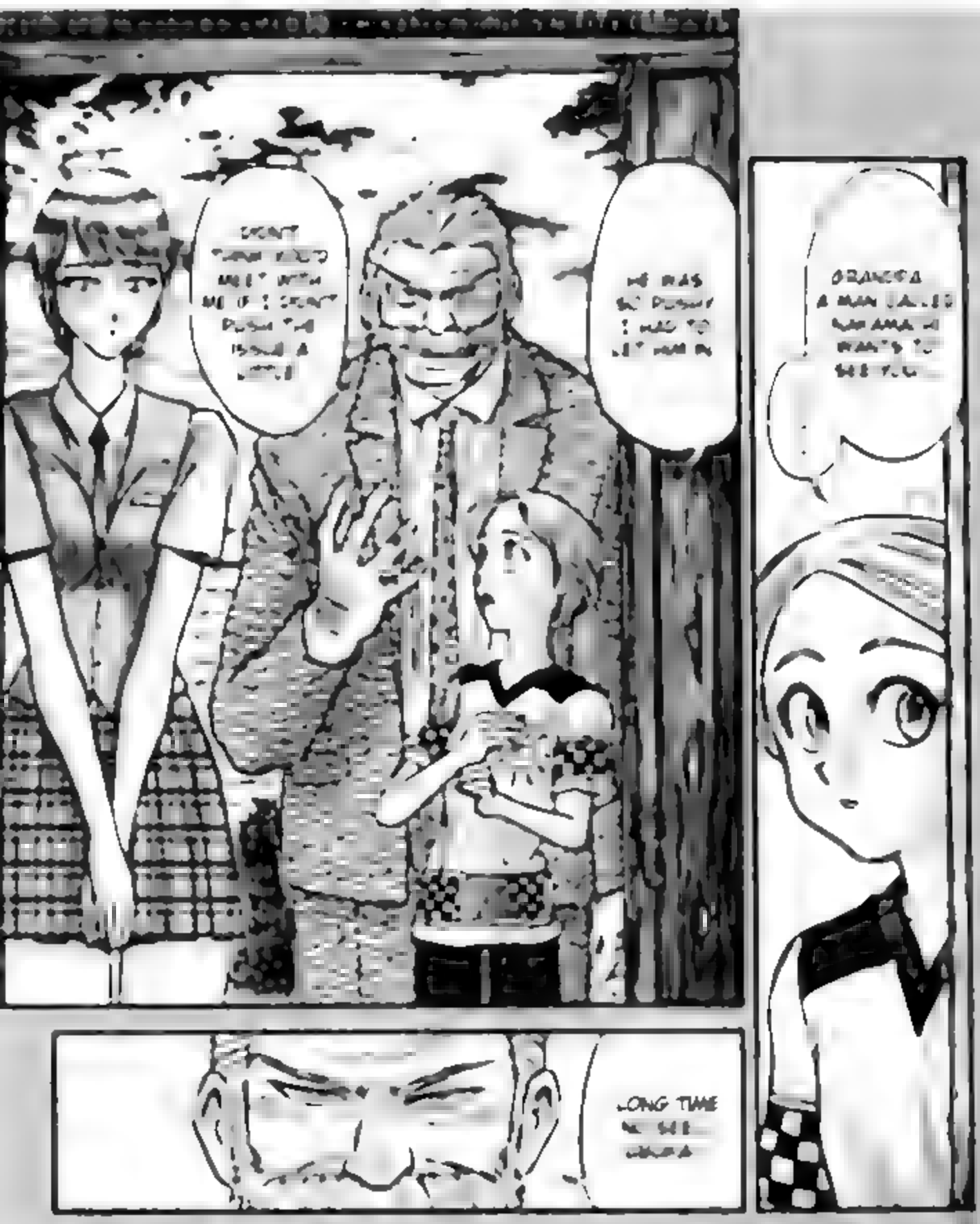

HE WAS SO PUSHY I HAD TO LET HIM IN
DON'T THINK YOU'D MEET WITH ME IF I DIDN'T PUSH THE ISSUE A LITTLE!
SOMEONE A MAN CALLED KUWANA IS WANTS TO SEE YOU
LONG TIME NO SEE UBUKATA

Act 3

Ubukata Houan

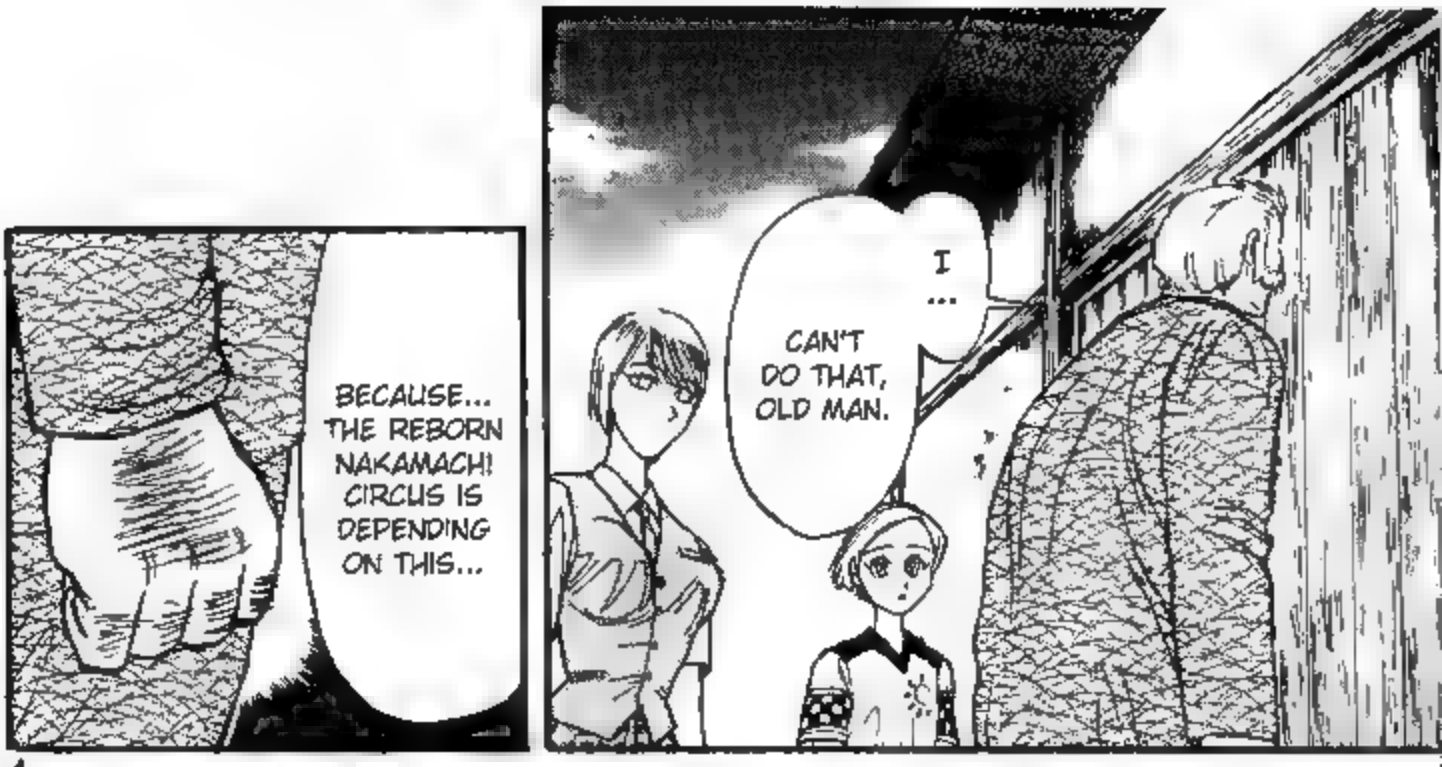
ドン
ずずずずん

2

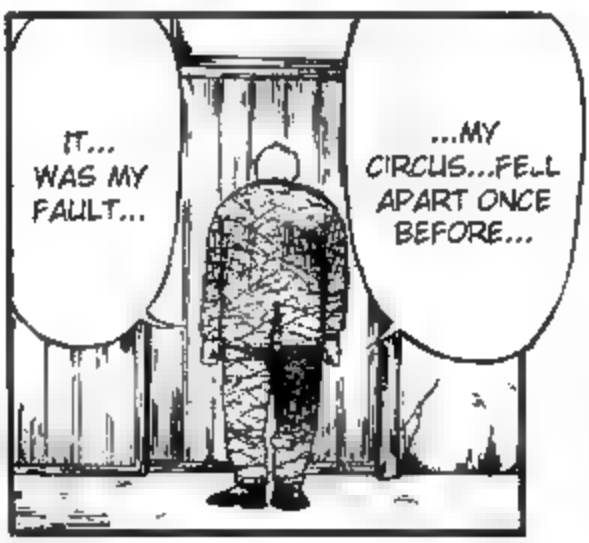
UBUKATA HOUAN!

WH-WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THE SURPRISE ATTACK, GEEZER!?

'SCUSE US...
WE'VE COME TO BORROW THE TIGHTROPE WALKING EQUIPMENT YOU TOOK WITH YOU.
OH, YEAH.
UH?
WHAT HAVE YOU COME HERE FOR...
SHI-NOBU?
ONE OF OUR PERFORMERS, SHIROGANE.
SHE'S HERE TO CHECK THE EQUIPMENT'S CONDITION.
AND THIS IS?
3
KEH... SO YOU FOUND MORE PERFOR-MERS.
I HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
BUT GO AWAY.
MY NAME IS SHIROGANE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR TROUBLE.


I ...
CAN'T DO THAT, OLD MAN.
BECAUSE... THE REBORN NAKAMACHI CIRCUS IS DEPENDING ON THIS...

I WAS THROWN INTO A RAVINE AFTER A BUS ACCIDENT ...
WHEN I WAS FOUND, THERE WERE RUMORS I HAD EATEN THE BODIES OF THE OTHER PASSENGERS.
...I SHOULD HAVE LAUGHED THEM OFF.


...MY CIRCUS...FELL APART ONCE BEFORE...
IT... WAS MY FAULT...

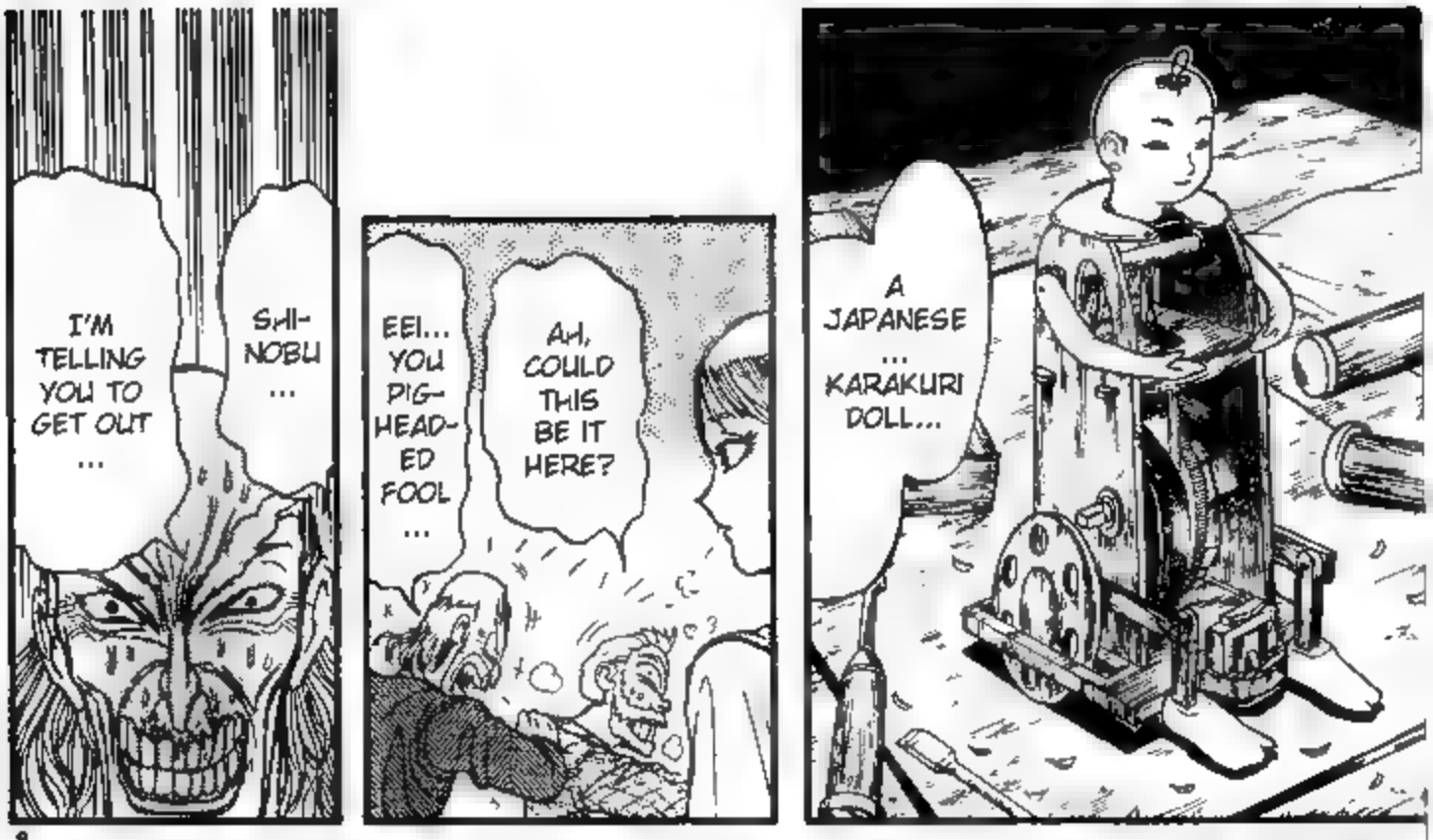
MY PATIENCE ...
JUST WASN'T ENOUGH.
I... MY...

THAT'S A FINE THING FOR A WORM LIKE YOU TO BE SAYING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!
AFTER YOU'VE TAKEN THE CIRCUS AWAY FROM MY GRANDPA!!
WH- WHAT ... WHAT ...!
YOU'RE... UBUKATA'S GRAND- CHILD...
HIS WORK IN THE CIRCUS WAS HIS REASON FOR LIVING!
AFTER ALL, GRANDPA WAS TOO OLD TO BE HIRED BY ANY OTHER CIRCUSES!
SO JUST HOLD OUT FOR NOW
PEOPLE WILL SOON FORGET.
BUT THEY'RE ONLY RUMORS.
BOSS, ENDURE IT FOR NOW THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS BEING SAID..
WHAT WILL BECOME OF THIS FAMILY?
IF OUR LEADER CAN'T PERFORM...
WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS?
IF YOU HANDLE THIS BADLY...

AMONG THE PEOPLE YOU ATE WAS A WOMAN WHO HAD CHILDREN! PLEASE APOLOGIZE!
TELL THE TRUTH, NAKAMA-HI SAN!
PLEASE HOLD OUT, BOSS!
DID YOU EAT THOSE PEOPLE?
AND NOW GRANDPA'S VOICE CAN BARELY BE HEARD!
WHEN I WAS LITTLE HE'D TELL ME SO HAPPILY ABOUT THE CIRCUS, IN SUCH A LOUD VOICE...
GRANDPA'S VOICE WAS SO LOUD WHEN HE WAS WITH THE CIRCUS!

B-BUT... GRAND-PA...
DON'T TALK ABOUT THESE THINGS, RYOUKO!
AH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SHINOBU!?
DON'T YOU GO INTO MY SHED!
UH, 'SCUSE ME, OLD MAN!

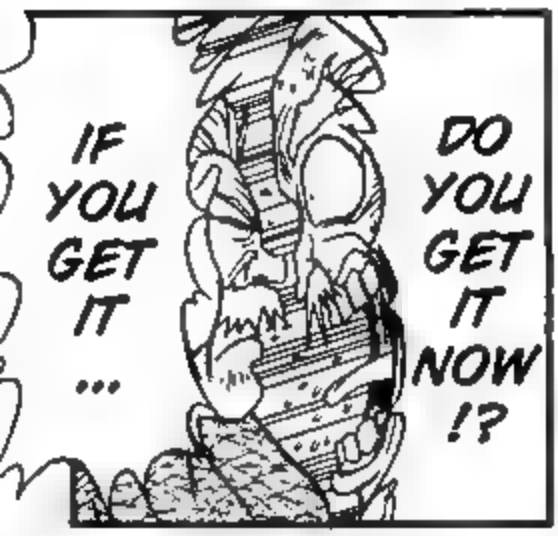
TOOLS ...
ALL KINDS OF TOOLS...
SHUT UP! GET OUT ALREADY! GET THE HELL OUT!
I'M BEGGIN' YA! WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS TIGHTROPE ACT!
THAT'S ...


I'M TELLING YOU TO GET OUT ...
SHI-NOBU ...
EEI... YOU PIG-HEAD-ED FOOL ...
AH, COULD THIS BE IT HERE?
A JAPANESE ... KARAKURI DOLL...

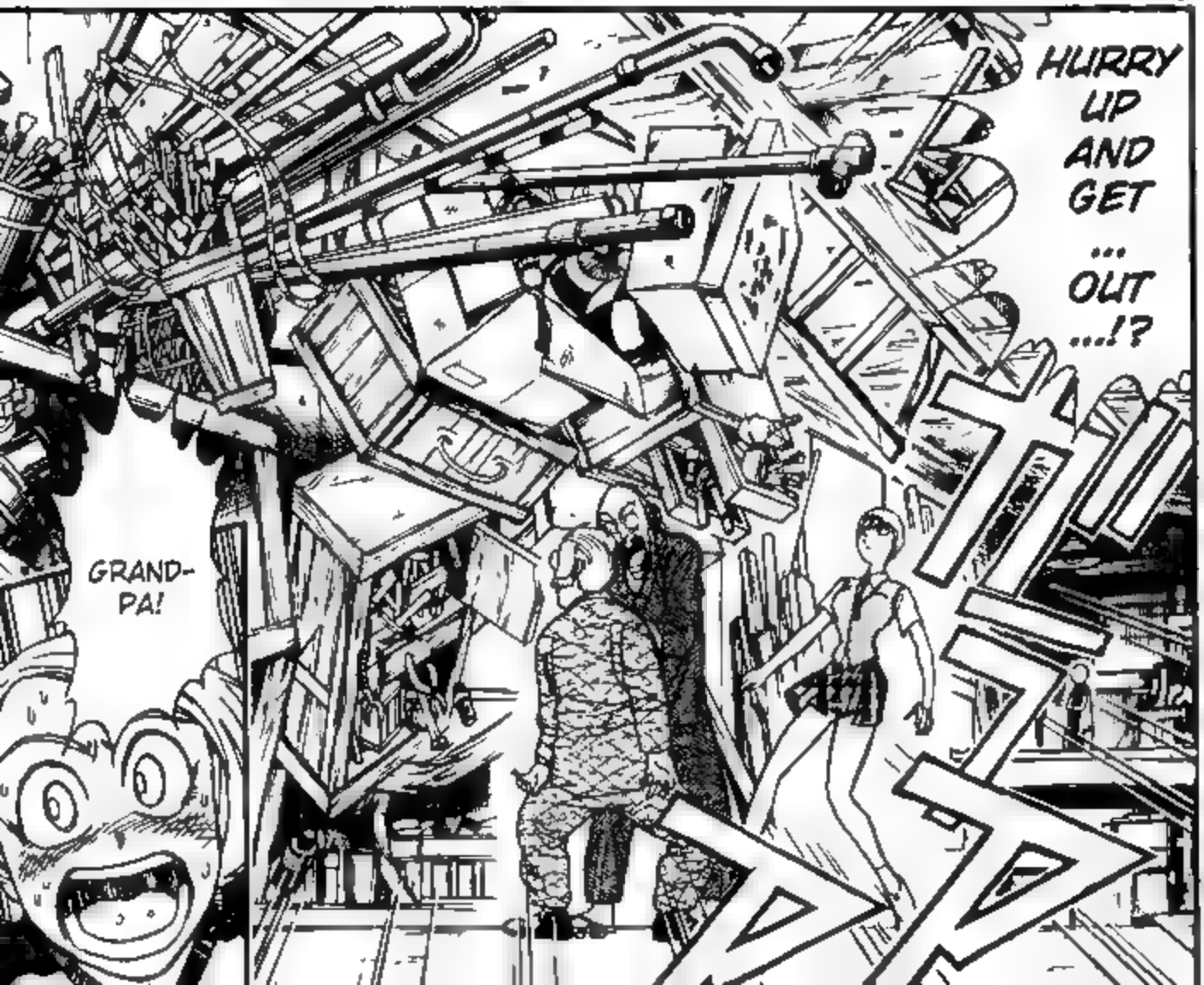
DO YOU HE-AR ME !?

THAT'S GRAND-PA'S OLD VOICE!

GRAND-PA?


IF YOU GET IT ...
DO YOU GET IT NOW !?

GRAND-PA!
THIS DAMN BARKING GEEZER ...
AH, WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE SAYING, SHIROGANE?
THAT IS...IM-PRESSIVE.

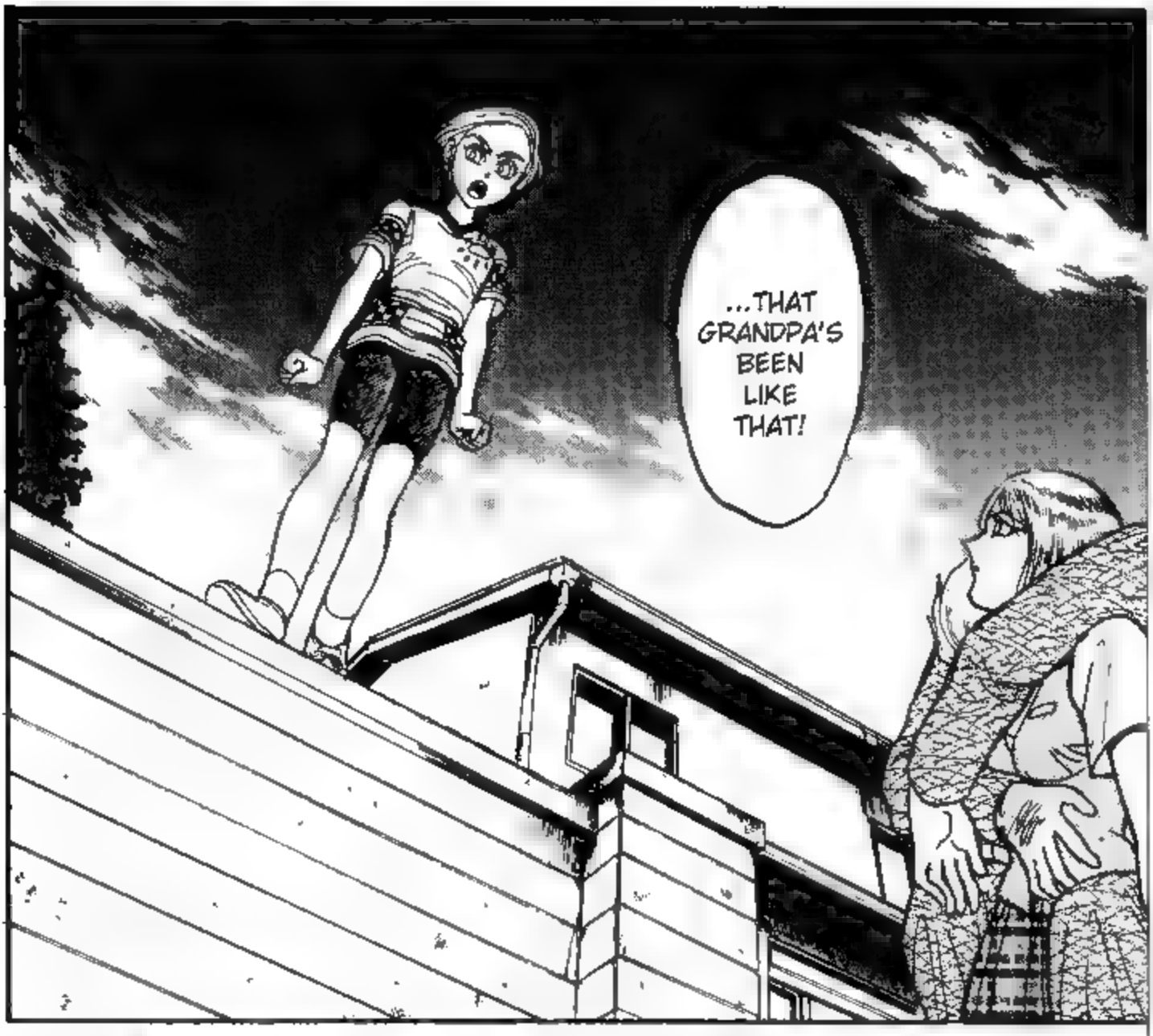

GRAND-PA!
HURRY UP AND GET ... OUT ...!?

BOSS!?
GRANDPA, ARE YOU OKAY!?
モク
モク
モク
モク
BOSS!!
ぽひん
ARE JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT ...
SHIRO-GANE... THOSE MOVES...

ER... I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR SHED.
I DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH YOU PEOPLE EVER AGAIN.
HONESTLY!
YES...
TRY TO GET THAT ACROSS TO THIS OAF.
I'M NOT ONE OF YOU CIRCUS FOLK ANYMORE.
I'M AN ORDINARY SENIOR CITIZEN WHO LIVES IN THE HOME OF HIS STUFFY SALARYMAN SON.
12
ER... ABOUT THIS...
LET'S GO INSIDE, RYOUKO.
THIS ... . !!

...I SEE. WELL THEN, EXCUSE ME...
KEH... THAT WASN'T NECESS-ARY!
IT HAPPENED TO BE IN MY HAND WHEN I LEFT THE SHED.
THAT HAS BEEN REPAIRED WITH A GREAT DEAL OF CARE.
HM...?
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME.
HMPH.
SINCE HE LEFT THE WORLD OF CIRCUSES... THAT WAS... THE FIRST TIME...
SINCE THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS FELL APART...

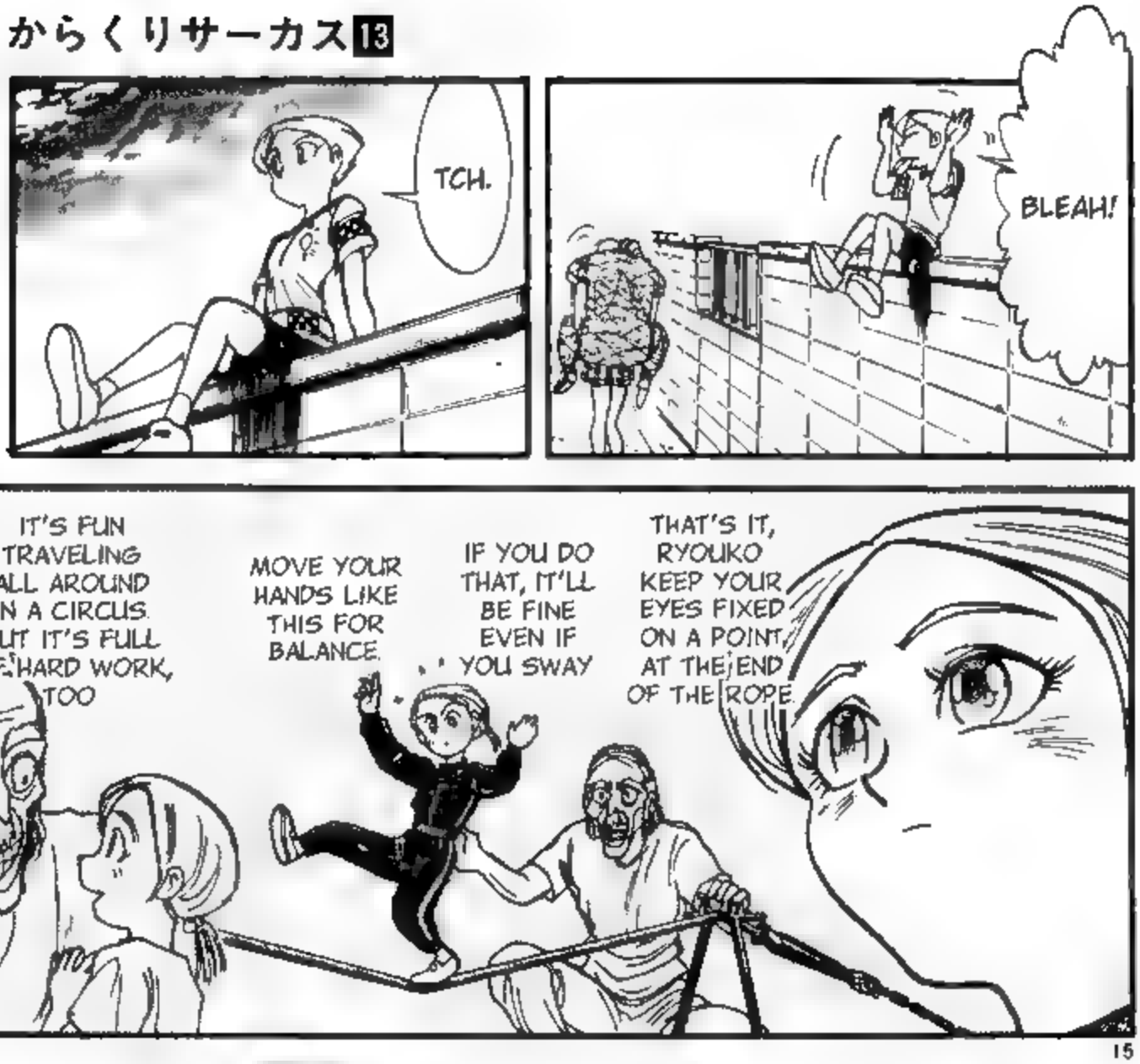
13


...THAT GRANDPA'S BEEN LIKE THAT!

I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT...
I SEE...

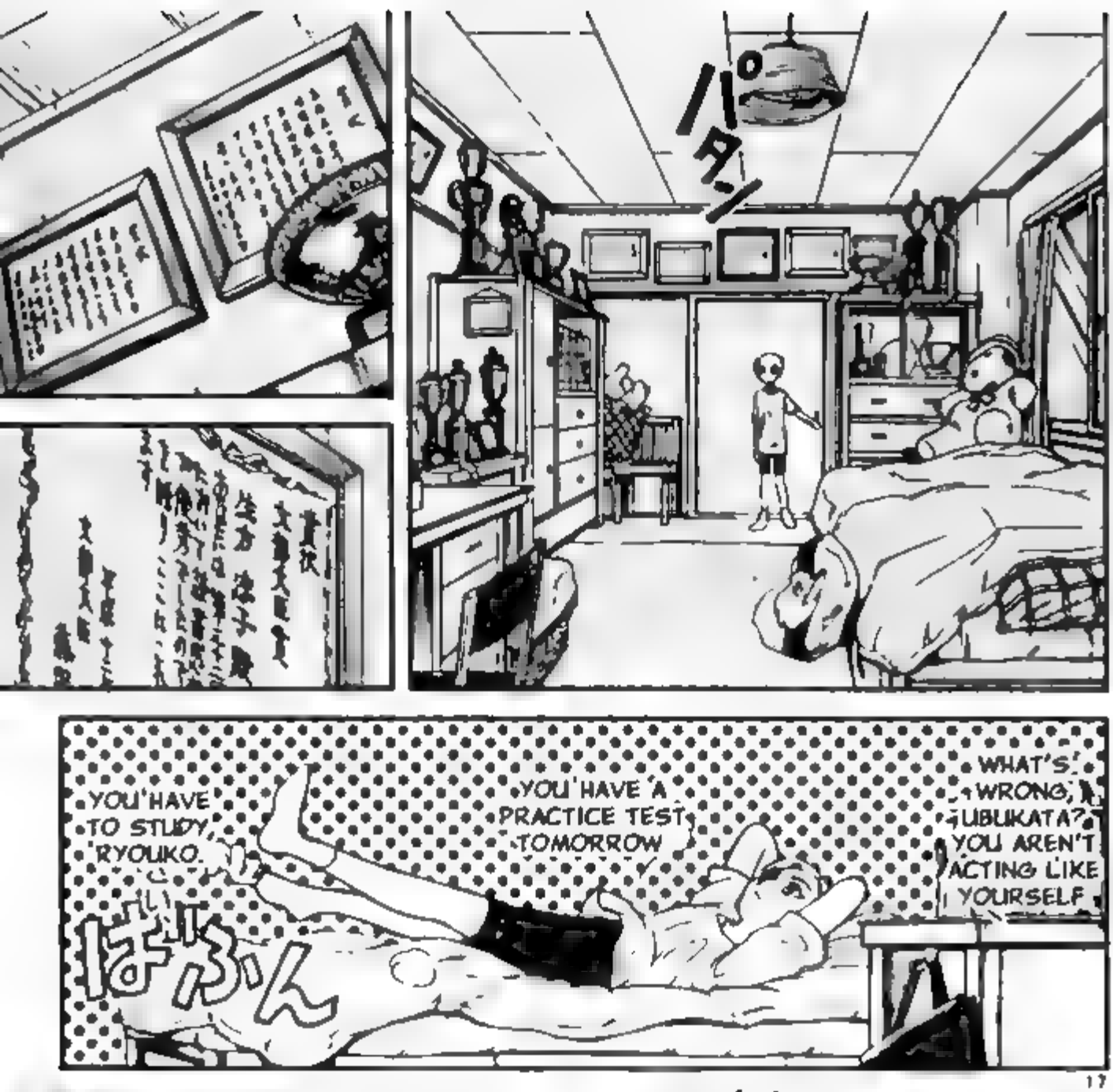
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I ABSOLUTELY HATE CIRCUSES! AND THE PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THEM TOO!!

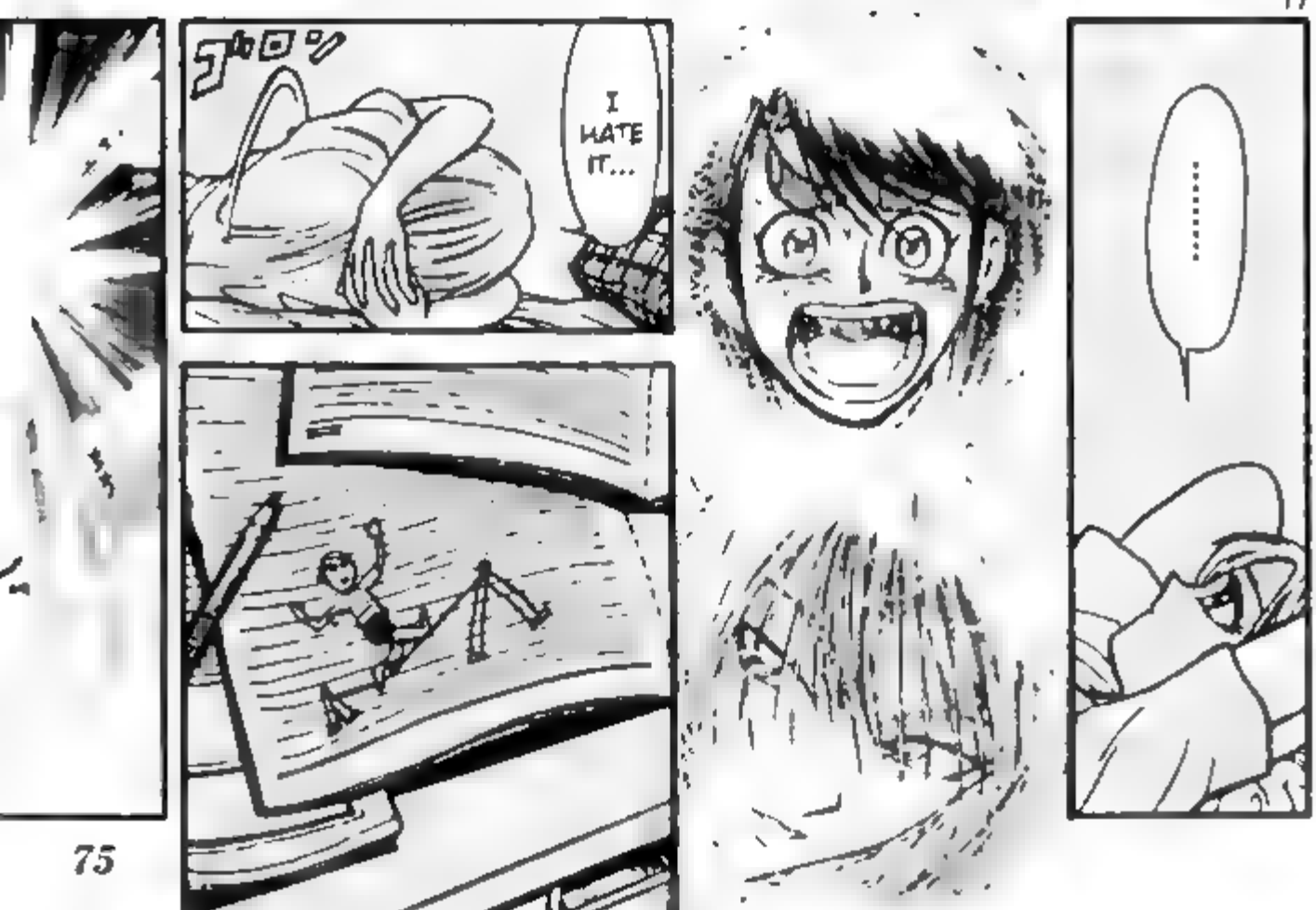
WHY ...
WHY WOULD YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT EVEN THOUGH GRANDPA SENT YOU AWAY...


TCH.
BLEAH!
IT'S FUN TRAVELING ALL AROUND IN A CIRCUS. BUT IT'S FULL OF HARD WORK, TOO
MOVE YOUR HANDS LIKE THIS FOR BALANCE.
IF YOU DO THAT, IT'LL BE FINE EVEN IF YOU SWAY
THAT'S IT, RYOUKO KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ON A POINT AT THE END OF THE ROPE.

WELL, HURRY UP AND COME DOWN! I HEARD FROM YOUR SCHOOL. YOU LEFT EARLY?
MOM, THAT'S NOT...!
トン
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU HAVE A PRACTICE TEST TOMORROW. HAVE YOU STUDIED?
YOU KNOW, TODAY I...
REALLY, IT MUST LOOK SO STRANGE TO THE NEIGH-BORS!
MOM ... I...
HON-ESTLY, WHAT IS YOUR GRAND-FATHER LETTING YOU GET UP TO?
OH, RYOUKO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CLIMBING UP THERE LIKE THAT!

NOW, WE DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO GET YOU INTO A GOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL IN ANOTHER DISTRICT.
HOWEVER, RYOUKO, IF A TEACHER WERE TO GIVE THEIR APPROVAL ...
パーン
HURRY UP AND COME INSIDE! YOUR HOME TUTOR IS COMING.
UM...
YOU MUST GET INTO THAT SCHOOL, RYOUKO.
I'LL LET YOU STUDY EVEN IF YOU OVERDO IT.
かちゃ
かちゃ
かちゃ
TO ACHIEVE THAT, YOU MUST NOT HOLD BACK.
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL DOESN'T MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE TO STUDY HARD. YOUR FATHER WILL DO AS MUCH AS HE CAN FOR YOU AS WELL.
I WAS VERY PROUD THAT YOU WERE RANKED 13TH IN THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR.
YEAH ...
RYOUKO, YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM YOUR FATHER.
YOU MUST STUDY HARD.
IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AT THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME FOR DETERMINING ONE'S ACADEMIC FUTURE, BECAUSE I HAD JUST CHANGED SCHOOLS...
BECAUSE GRANDPA WORKED IN THE CIRCUS, I...


YOU'LL HAVE TO STUDY, RYOUKO.
YOU'LL HAVE A PRACTICE TEST TOMORROW
WHAT'S WRONG, GUBUKATA? YOU AREN'T ACTING LIKE YOURSELF


I HATE IT...
.....

WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR!?

AH!!

I DON'T WANT THAT! GET LOST!
WE MADE A MESS YESTERDAY, SO WE ARE HERE TO CLEAN IT UP.
S-SAIGA !?

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

In Japan students and their families
choose which middle school they
apply to, and getting into the right one is
considered one of the deciding factors
for their entire future
For students trying to get into a highly
regarded school that will get them into a
good high school and university
the entrance exams are extremely
high pressure, as you might imagine

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums
for removing the Japanese text, and to the
anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

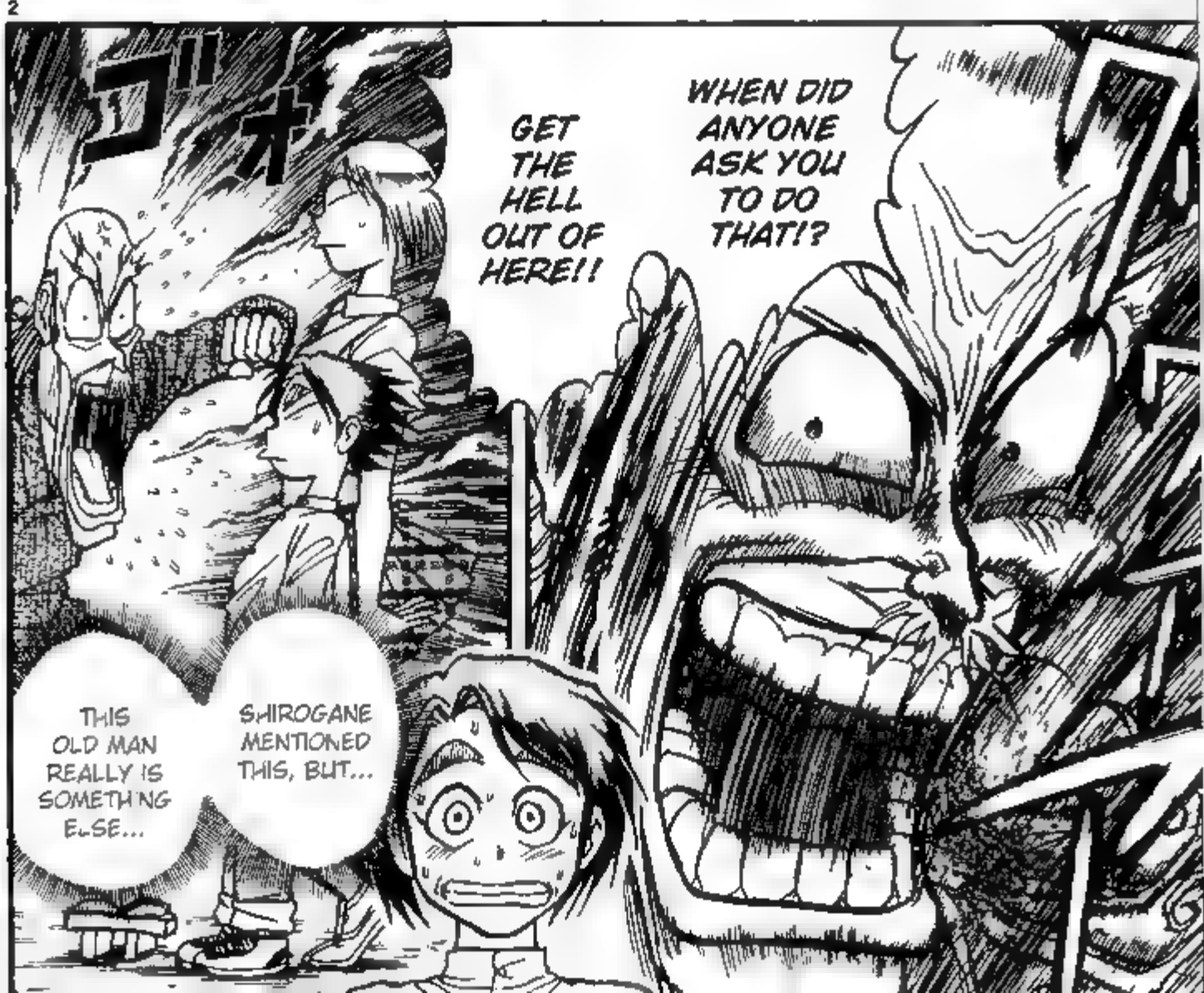
Any group with more experience or skill
is welcome to take over at any time or
to redo chapters I have already done
if they are below the quality that
this series deserves

Act 4

Houan vs. Shirogane

I DON'T WANT ANYONE TOUCHING MY EQUIP-MENT!
WE'RE HERE TO CLEAN UP THE MESS WE MADE OF YOUR SHED THE OTHER DAY...

2


ゴッ
GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!!
WHEN DID ANYONE ASK YOU TO DO THAT!?
THIS OLD MAN REALLY IS SOMETHING ELSE...
SHIROGANE MENTIONED THIS, BUT...

HMM, BUT IF WE DON'T EVEN ASK HIM A SECOND TIME...
HE'S EVEN MORE PIG-HEADED THAN I THOUGHT HE WAS.
YOU'D BETTER NOT!
YOU'RE GONNA GO BACK AND ASK THE GEEZER TO LEND US THE EQUIPMENT AGAIN?
YOU'D BETTER GIVE UP, SHIRO-GANE.
YEAH, YEAH, HE WAS ALWAYS SAYING THIS WEIRD STUFF ABOUT HOW EQUIPMENT HAS A "HEART"
YOU REALLY SHOULD STOP ONE TIME WHEN I WAS RIDING A UNICYCLE
THAT BARKING GEEZER SAID I HADN'T SINCERELY ASKED IT, "PLEASE LET ME RIDE YOU," AND HE KICKED ME OFF
It's no good.
WELL, GO IF YOU WANT
YOU'RE JUST AS STUBBORN AS THAT GEEZER, SHIROGANE.
GOOD GRIEF ..
IF I TRY ONE MORE TIME...
BUT...
SHIRO-GANE, I'LL COME TOO
WELL, THEN...

I WONDER IF SHE REALLY LIVES WITH THIS AMAZING OLD MAN...
I've lost my confidence
MUST BE UBUKATA-SAN. I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO MAKE PEACE...
FROM WHAT SHIROGANE TOLD ME, THIS OLD MAN'S GRAND-DAUGHTER ...
AH, SHE REALLY DOES...!
SAIGAAA! WHY DID YOU COME TO MY HOUSE!?
4
NO... I... I CAME TO MAKE UP...
WHAT, JUST BECAUSE I WON THE RACE YESTERDAY, YOU'VE COME HERE TO PULL SOMETHING?
OR MAYBE YOU CAME TO SCOUT ME FOR THAT LITTLE CIRCUS OF YOURS?
SERIOUSLY, YOU'VE GOTTA BE JOKING!!

WHAT'S THIS, RYOUKO'S FRIEND IS ONE OF THE KIDS WITH NAKAMACHI...
WHAT IS WITH THE WAY YOU TALK!?
WHAT, YOU GOT A PROBLEM!?
HM?
WHAT IS IT?
ALL THE YOUNG FOLK THESE DAYS HAVE THAT KIND OF SLIPPERY FACE.
BUT I'VE HAD IT WITH TRUSTING MEN WITH THIS KIND OF DAMN FACE.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS ABOUT IT LOOKING LIKE THAT, CAN YOU!?
THE SAME GOES FOR YOU. EVEN IF YOU SAY YOU WANT TO CLEAN UP...
ISN'T IT!?
THE MAIN REASON SHINOBU SENT YOU HERE...
IS TO KISS UP AND ASK ME TO LEND YOU THE TIGHTROPE EQUIPMENT!

HEY, HOLD IT!
DON'T TOUCH MY EQUIPMENT!
WELL THEN ...
NO... IT'S NOTHING.
HEY!
YOU'LL JUST START THROWING IT AROUND AND HANDLING IT CARELESSLY!
YOU YOUNG FOLK HAVE NO RESPECT FOR THE EQUIPMENT!
6

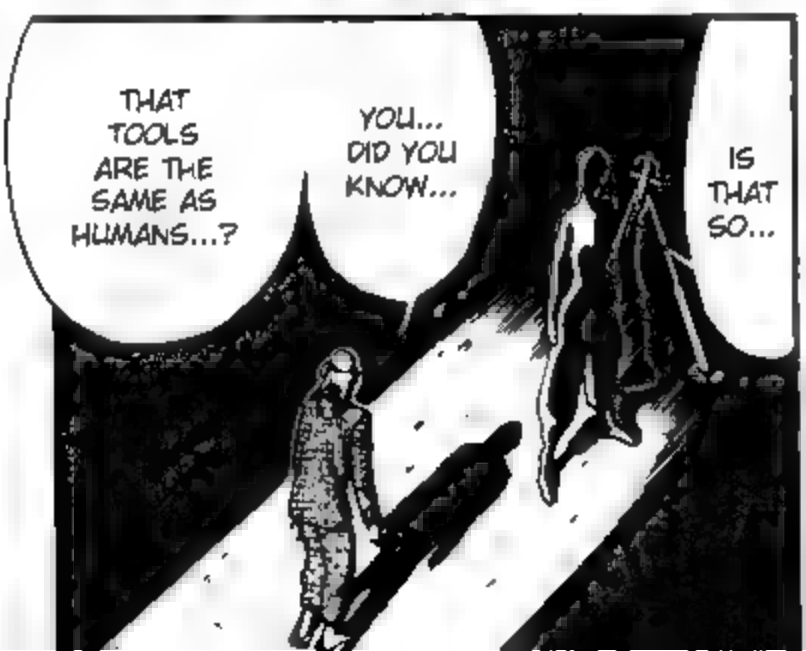
IF YOU DON'T MIND...
I THINK I'LL TIDY THEM UP ... BY TAKING THEM OUT ONE AT A TIME.
JUST DON'T DAMAGE THAT EQUIPMENT.
TCH ...

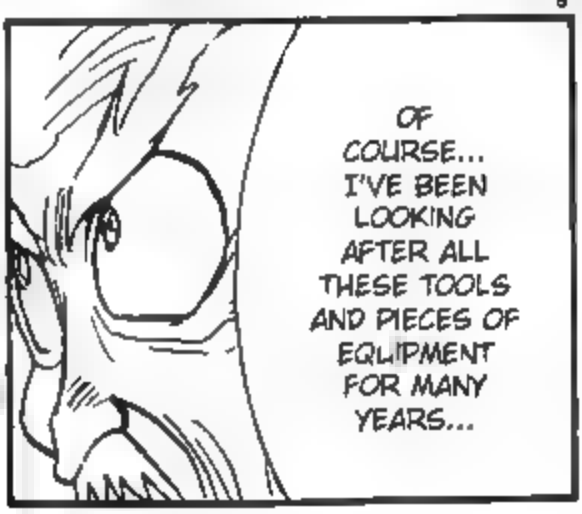
WELL, SHE'LL GET SLOPPY ABOUT IT...
THAT WOMAN WILL GET WORN OUT SOON AND APOLOGIZE IN TEARS.

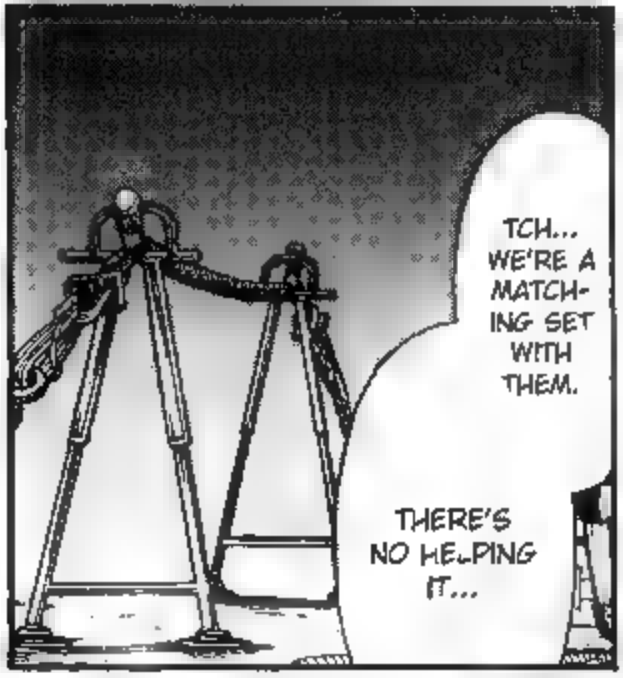
ピーンポーン
ピーンポーン

UWAH!
YOU WERE STILL HERE!
EX-CUSE ME ...
I'VE FINISHED ...
NO GOOD ...
DOESN'T WORK THERE EITHER ...
LET'S JUST TAKE A LOOK HERE...
IT'S NOT EVEN NOON YET!
IDIOT! AS IF YOU COULD HAVE PUT IT ALL BACK AFTER IT WAS SCATTERED LIKE THAT!

BUT IT'S IN GOOD CONDITION.
THIS EQUIPMENT IS OLD, AND WELL-USED ...
THIS CERTAINLY IS A LOT OF CIRCUS EQUIPMENT.
.....


THAT TOOLS ARE THE SAME AS HUMANS...?
YOU... DID YOU KNOW...
IS THAT SO...

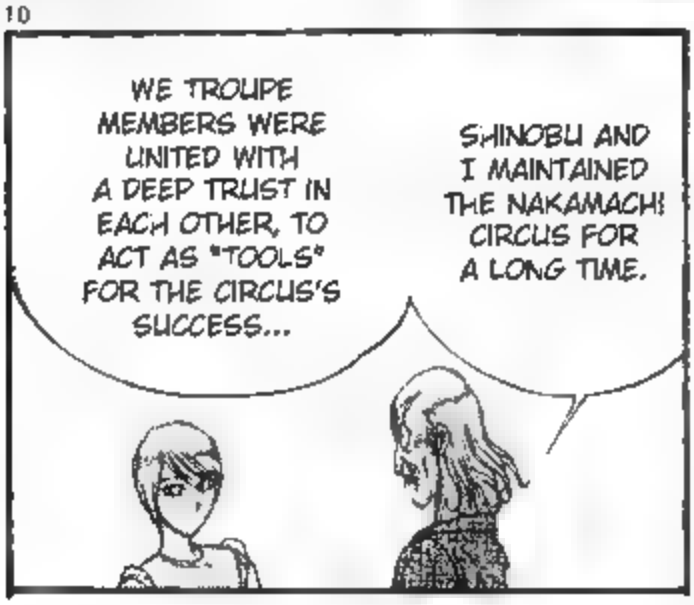

OF COURSE... I'VE BEEN LOOKING AFTER ALL THESE TOOLS AND PIECES OF EQUIPMENT FOR MANY YEARS...

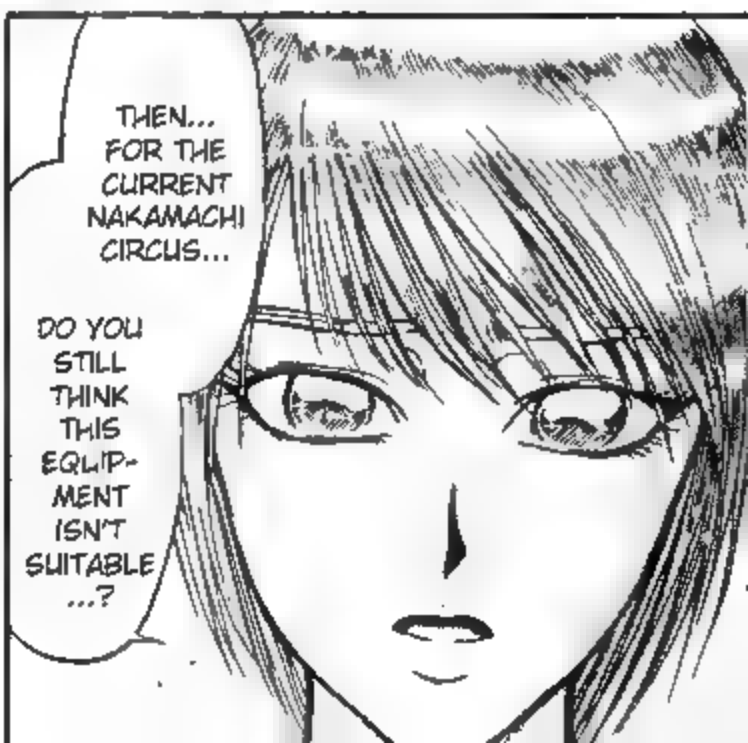

TCH... WE'RE A MATCHING SET WITH THEM.
THERE'S NO HELPING IT...

HM...?
DESCARTES OR SOMEBODY SAID IT LONG AGO.
WHEN A HUMAN EATS, AND WHEN A TOOL MOVES BY USING FUEL, IT'S THE SAME THING.

NO LESS SO IN A CIRCUS.
THAT'S THE BEST THING TO DO IN ANY PLACE...

USING OIL IN CASE OF A QUARREL ...
OR COMPASSION IN CASE OF DAMAGE ...
AND HUMANS ...
PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THAT... SHOULD USE TOOLS WITH CARE AND LOVE.

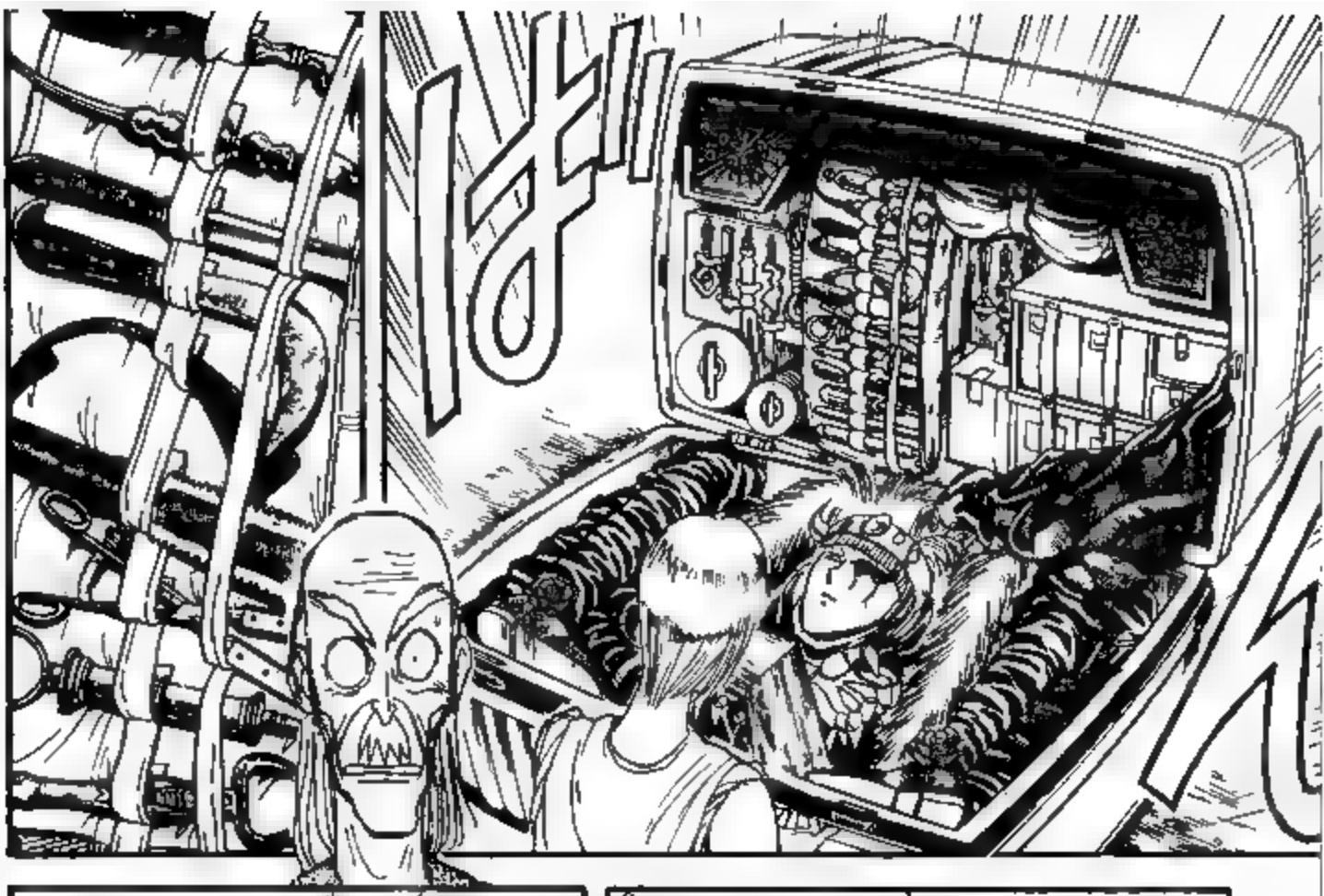

WE TROUPE MEMBERS WERE UNITED WITH A DEEP TRUST IN EACH OTHER, TO ACT AS "TOOLS" FOR THE CIRCUS'S SUCCESS...
SHINOBU AND I MAINTAINED THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS FOR A LONG TIME.


THEN... FOR THE CURRENT NAKAMACHI CIRCUS...
DO YOU STILL THINK THIS EQUIPMENT ISN'T SUITABLE ...?

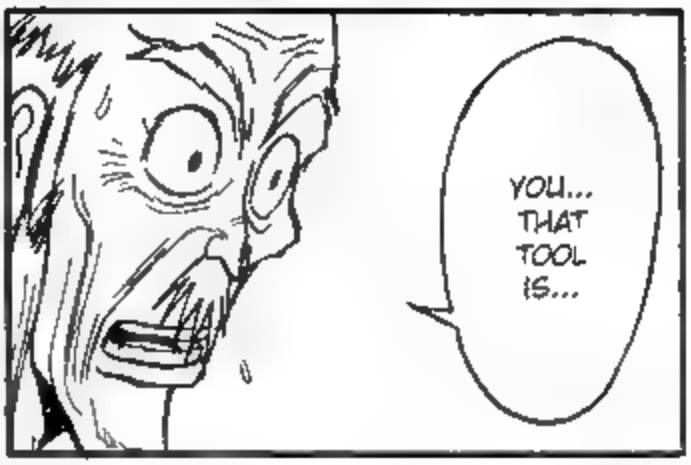
HE SCAT-TERED US ALL!
NO MATTER WHAT WAS BEING SAID, THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS STILL MADE PEOPLE HAPPY!
THAT IS WHAT THAT FOOL SHINOBU RUINED WITH HIS STUPID ACTS!
OF WORKING WITH A MASTER WHO COULDN'T BELIEVE IN HIS TOOLS!!
I HAVE NO INTENTION ...
WE TROUPE MEMBERS COULD NO LONGER TRUST HIM AS OUR LEADER!
THAT IDIOT SHINOBU'S PATIENCE WASN'T ENOUGH.
AND YET HE KNOCKED OVER THE TOOLBOX...HE DESTROYED THE CIRCUS.
IF HE WAS BROKEN BY THAT TERRIBLE RUMOR, THERE WERE ANY NUMBER OF US "TOOLS" TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE.

TCH ...
WHAT AM I SAYING!?
IS THAT SO...
BEING YELLED AT BY ME... CLEANING UP FOR A TOUGH OLD MAN...
A YOUNG GIRL...NO, ANYONE WOULD FIND IT UNPLEASANT.
WHY HAVE YOU TAKEN ON THIS THANKLESS JOB?
YOU... WITH THAT KIND OF FACE, AND THAT KIND OF SKILL...
I CAN DO NOTHING ELSE.
IF THERE IS SOMETHING TO DO FOR THE CIRCUS...
I... AM A TOOL.
A TOOL CAN ONLY EVER DO ONE THING.
WHAT IS THAT DOLL?
ER ...
I GET IT... LEAVE.
HMPH, SO YOU'RE HERE TO BORROW EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR CIRCUS.

WHAT YOU SEE IS A RESTOR-ATION, BUT ITS ORIGINAL FORM WAS MADE 200-ODD YEARS AGO...
A KARA-KURI DOLL ...
A WIND-UP PUPPET. IT'S A TEA-SERVING DOLL.
A TOOL OF NO VALUE TO ITS OWNER... AND A DOLL THAT CAN'T BE FIXED.
.....
THIS THING AND I ARE THE SAME.
I'VE TINKERED WITH IT, HOPING TO FIX IT, BUT ...
IT'S TOO MUCH FOR AN AMA-TEUR.
I GOT IT AT A THRIFT SHOP, BUT IT'S BROKEN.
13
THANK YOU.
TCH...WELL, IN EXHANGE FOR YOUR WORK... JUST A LITTLE.
PLEA-SE ...
.....
IT'S NO GOOD NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T LET ME TOUCH IT EVEN A LITTLE BIT?

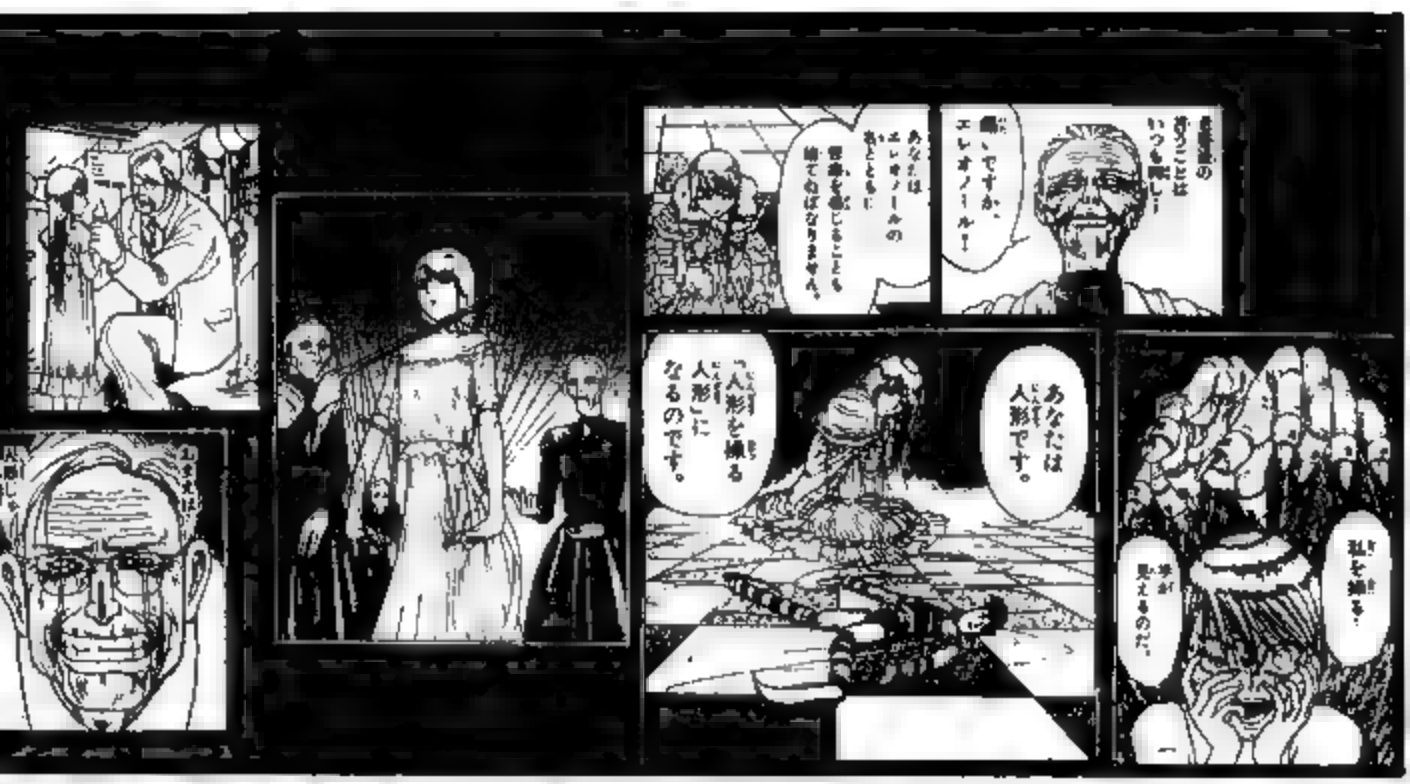


I DEAL WITH PUPPETS A BIT MYSELF...


YOU... THAT TOOL IS...

IN TRUTH, I WAS RAISED AS NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL.

FROM A VERY EARLY AGE, I—



SHIROGANE, YOU'RE NOT A PUPPET.

HOWEVER, AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN EVENTS...

AND FROM THERE, I HAVE CONTINUED TO CHANGE ...

I CHANGED ...

BESIDES, PEOPLE ARE NOT THINGS ...

UBUKATA-SAN... A BROKEN TOOL CAN BE RECOVERED IF YOU REPAIR IT.

SO ...
WITH-OUT A DOUBT ...
カタ
16
...IT MO-VED!
AHA-HAHA, IT MOVED!
AS MANY TIMES AS THEY NEED TO.
PEOPLE CAN START OVER...
ことととと

UBUKATA-SAN, YOU DON'T THROW A TOOL AWAY IF IT BREAKS ONCE.
NAKA-MACHI-SAN REGRETS HIS ACTIONS.
WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU ...?
AHA... HM, UH, AHEM!
.....
IS THAT SO ...
THE TIGHT-ROPE EQUIP-MENT, HUH ...
GIVE THE CURRENT NAKAMACHI CIRCUS A CHANCE...
PLEA-SE ...
17
NO WAY.

HM?
WAIT.
I APO-
LOGIZE
DEEPLY
FOR MY
PRESUMP-
TION.
PLEASE
EXCUSE
ME.
TCH,
THERE'S NO
HELPING IT.
TH-
THEN
...
I SAID
I WOULDN'T
LEND IT TO
NAKAMACHI.
I
DIDN'T
SAY
ANYTHING
ABOUT
YOU.

THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH!
I'LL
BRING
IT BACK.

translation by funnjraba tumblr com

The word used for "tool" and "equipment" (道具, *dougu*) is the same in the Japanese I've tried to make it sound natural in English while conveying that they refer to the same thing The same goes for "doll" and "puppet" (人形 *ningyou*) and "to laugh" and "to smile" (笑う *warau*). which of course have both been very important words in this manga. I will try to avoid it but there may be some unavoidable inconsistencies. so be aware that all these words originally cover overlapping concepts

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

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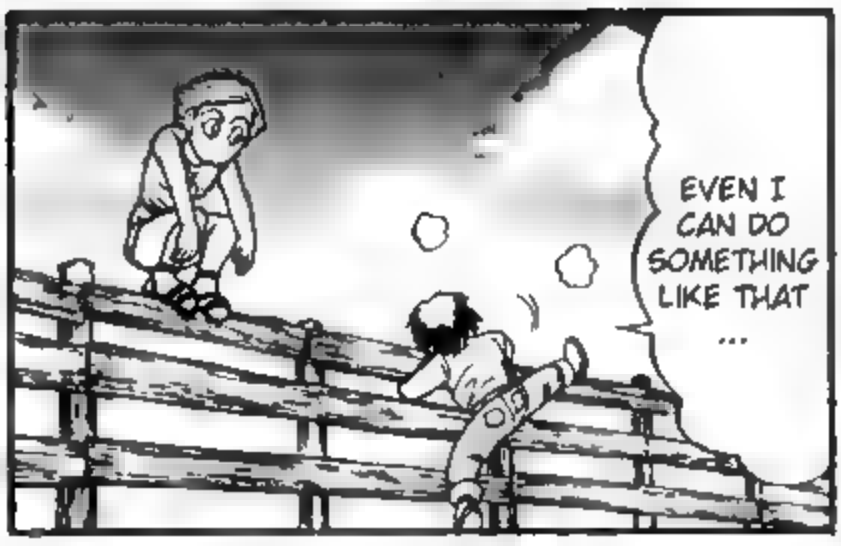
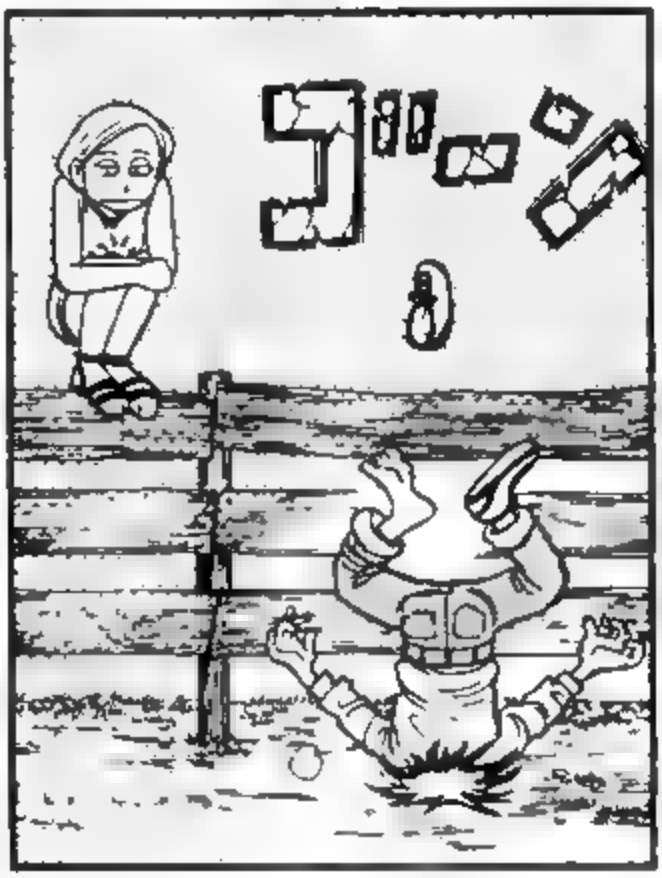
Act 5
Temporary Closing

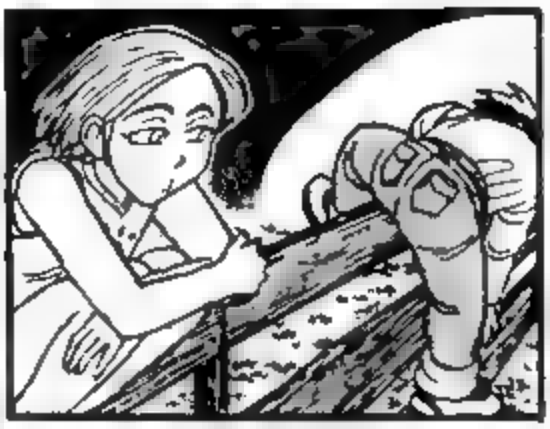
ミーン
ミーン
SHUT UP! I SAY THEM BECAUSE I WANT TO!!
THEY HAVE THIS SUPER SNOBBISH FEELING TO THEM. JUST BECAUSE THEY CAN DO A FEW TRICKS!
WHY!? WHY DO YOU ONLY SAY BAD THINGS ABOUT CIRCUSES!?
たたた
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THE CIRCUS TO SEE THIS!
WHO CARES ABOUT TRICKS?
THAT'S...WE DO TRICKS SO WE CAN SHOW THEM TO PEOPLE.
ぴょん


EVEN I CAN DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT ...

WH-WHAT?

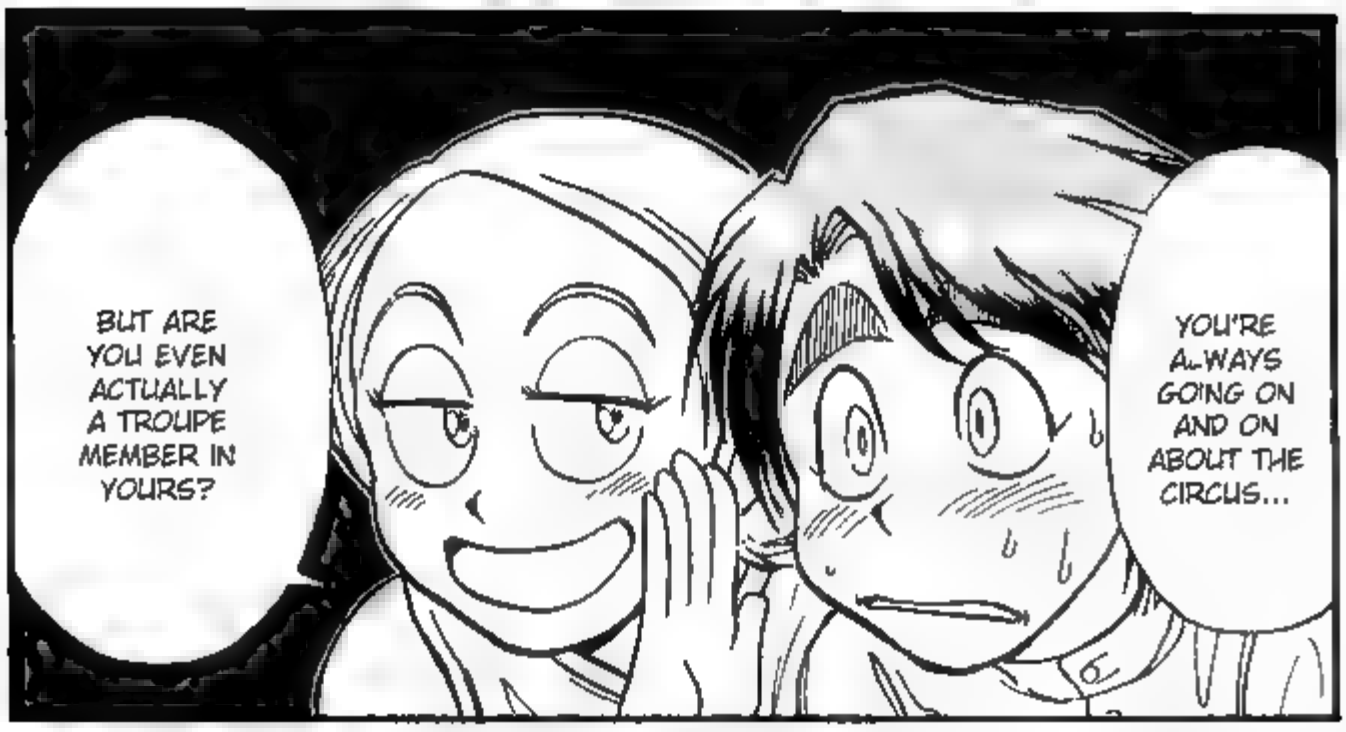
AH HOW LAME
が!!
は





OH HO HO.
WH-WHAT IS IT?

JUST STOP ALREADY!


BUT ARE YOU EVEN ACTUALLY A TROUPE MEMBER IN YOURS?
YOU'RE ALWAYS GOING ON AND ON ABOUT THE CIRCUS...

SOMEONE WHO CAN'T DO ANY TRICKS WHATSOEVER IS ONLY GETTING IN THEIR WAY.

LIKE YOU SAID, THE CIRCUS IS FOR PEOPLE TO SHOW OFF THEIR TRICKS, RIGHT?
HUH...? WH-WH-WH-WH-WHY WOULD THAT BE!?

4

I... I CAN JUGGLE... A LITTLE BIT...

IS THAT KIND OF ORDINARY THING WHAT YOU CALL A TRICK!?
I'M PRETTY SURE EVERYONE IN OUR CLASS CAN DO THAT.

YOU MUST BE A MORON.
WELL... I...I LEARNED TO RIDE A UNICYCLE.
That was pretty hard

ぽぽぽぽぽ
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? MY MOM CAN JUGGLE BETTER THAN THAT.
WITH THAT LEVEL OF SKILL... WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, MAKE FUN OF PEOPLE?

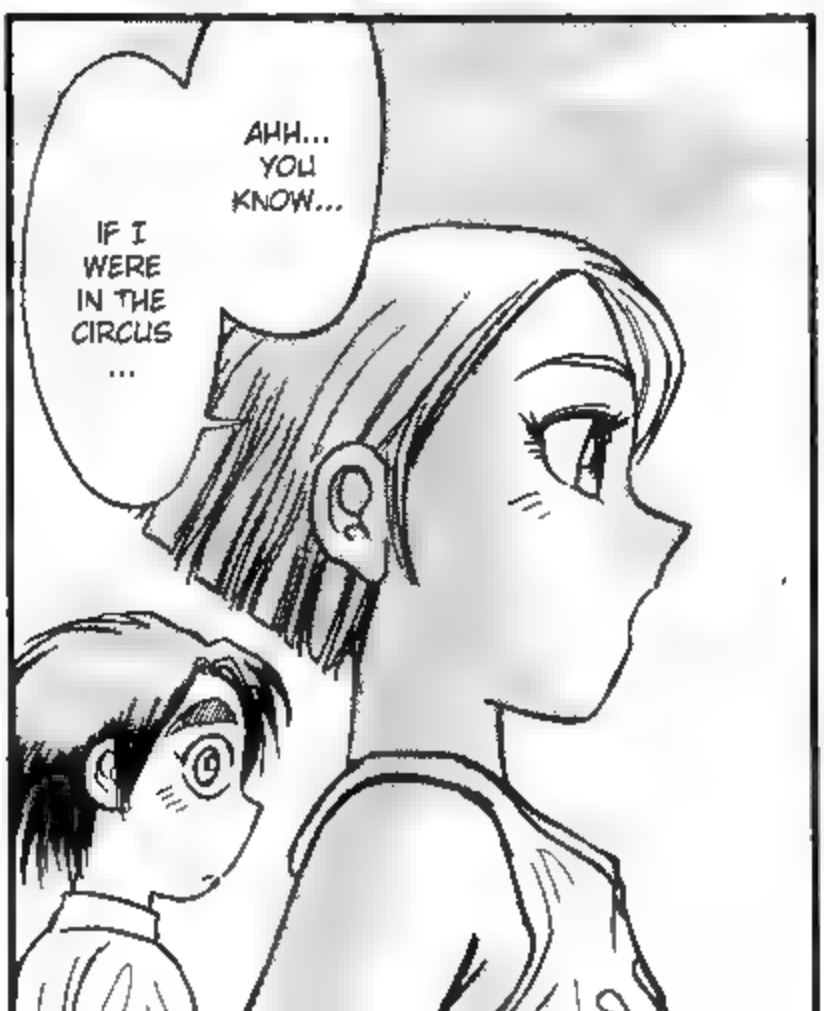
ぽぽ
ん

I'M WITH ALL THOSE GREAT PERFORMERS AND...I CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
.....
YOU'RE RIGHT ...

YEP, YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING IN THE CIRCUS. YOU'RE JUST KINDA THERE, HUH?
.....

5

HUH ...?
UBUKATA-SAN, WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
I-I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING!


AHH... YOU KNOW...
IF I WERE IN THE CIRCUS ...

.....

UBUKATA-SAAAN, I THOUGHT YOU HATED CIRCUSES...
Y-YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, I HATE THEM.
SHUT UP AL-READY!

むふ

SHH. THOSE MIDDLE-SCHOOLERS ARE BAD NEWS.
WHAT IS IT, UBUKATA-SAN?
Oh, my
there
ざっ
ざっ
ざっ

THEY GIVE THEIR MONEY UP REAL EASY IF YA JUST KICK 'EM.
HEH HEH, THAT'S QUITE A KICK YA GOT.
SO YEAH, THEN I KICKED HIM SO HARD HE PUKED.
ドゴッ
ドゴッ

SO LET'S GO OVER HERE.
Y-YEAH. THAT'S SCARY...

THEY'RE REALLY FAMOUS.
THEY HIT AND KICK KIDS TO GET THEIR MONEY...

ドゴォ

7

YEAH, A KICK JUST LIKE THAT.

AW, WE'LL BE FINE.
OOH, WATCH OUT, MAN!
AHAHA, YOU DID IT!
It It It
It It It
It ひゃ ひゃ ひゃ

DOES HE WANT MILK?
OH, MY, WHAT IS IT? THE BABY JUST BURST INTO TEARS.

うわぁぁぁん

8

L WAAAH

SAY IT!
H-HOW AWFUL ...

UH, MA'AM, JUST NOW...
HEY, HOLD IT!

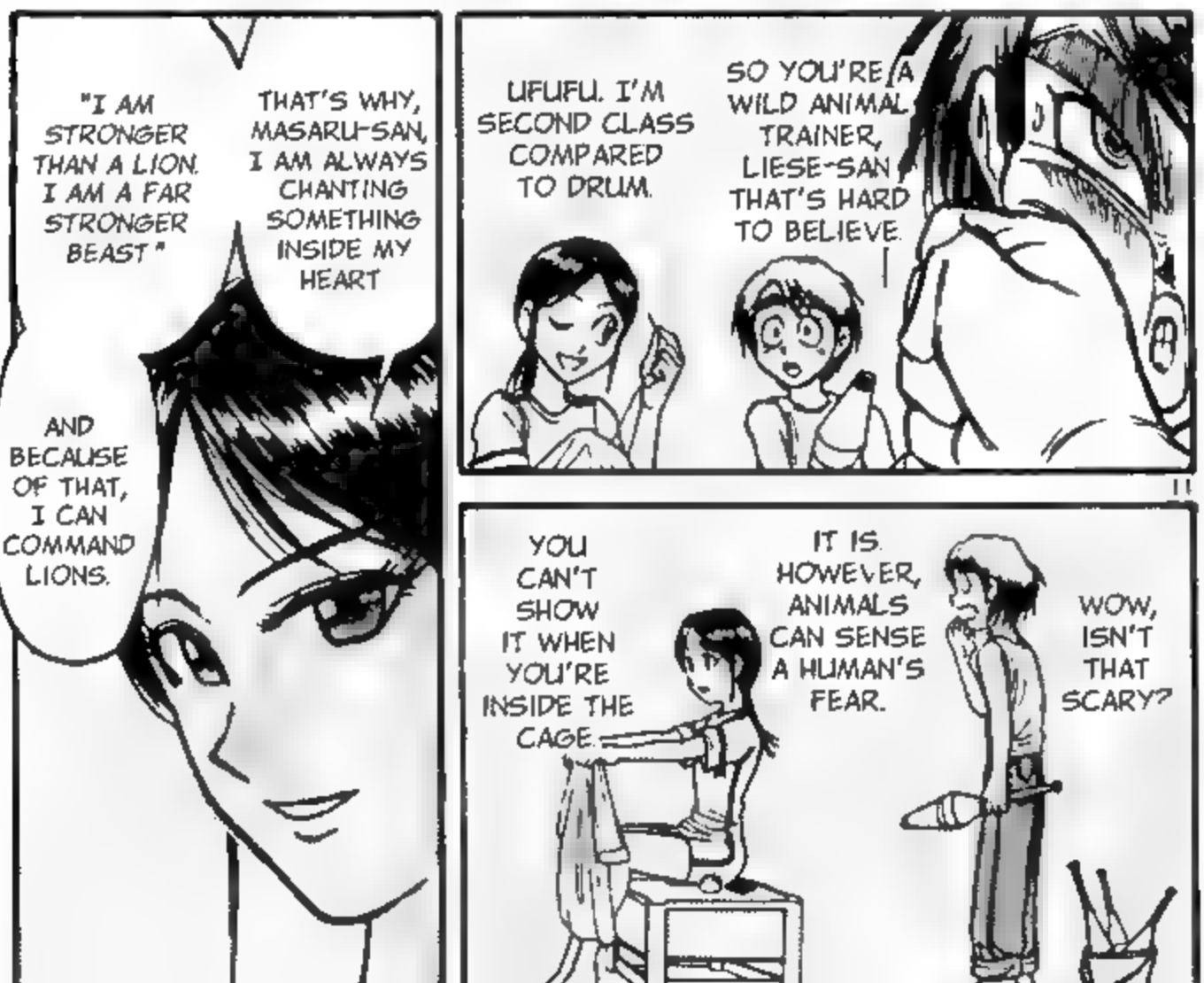
APOLOGIZE!
YOU JUST KICKED THAT BABY'S PINWHEEL, DIDN'T YOU.
YEAH, BRAT?
GOT SOME BUSI-NESS WITH US?
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN DOING!?
S-S-SAGA!
SO WHAT IF I DID, HUH!?

ITS PIN-WHEEL ...
GIVE THAT BABY BACK...
KYAAA
AH ...
AH ...
OH, SKIP THE SERMON, BRAT.

LITTLE EARLY FOR YOU TO BE DATING, DON'TCHA THINK? LEMME GIVE YA SOME GUIDANCE...
UBU-KATA-SAN...
A LITTLE KIDDIE COUPLE? GO CALL FOR A TEACHER, WHY DON'T YA.
OH, WHAT DO WE GOT HERE?
WAIT! PLEASE STOP...!
AAH!? COME ON, CRY!

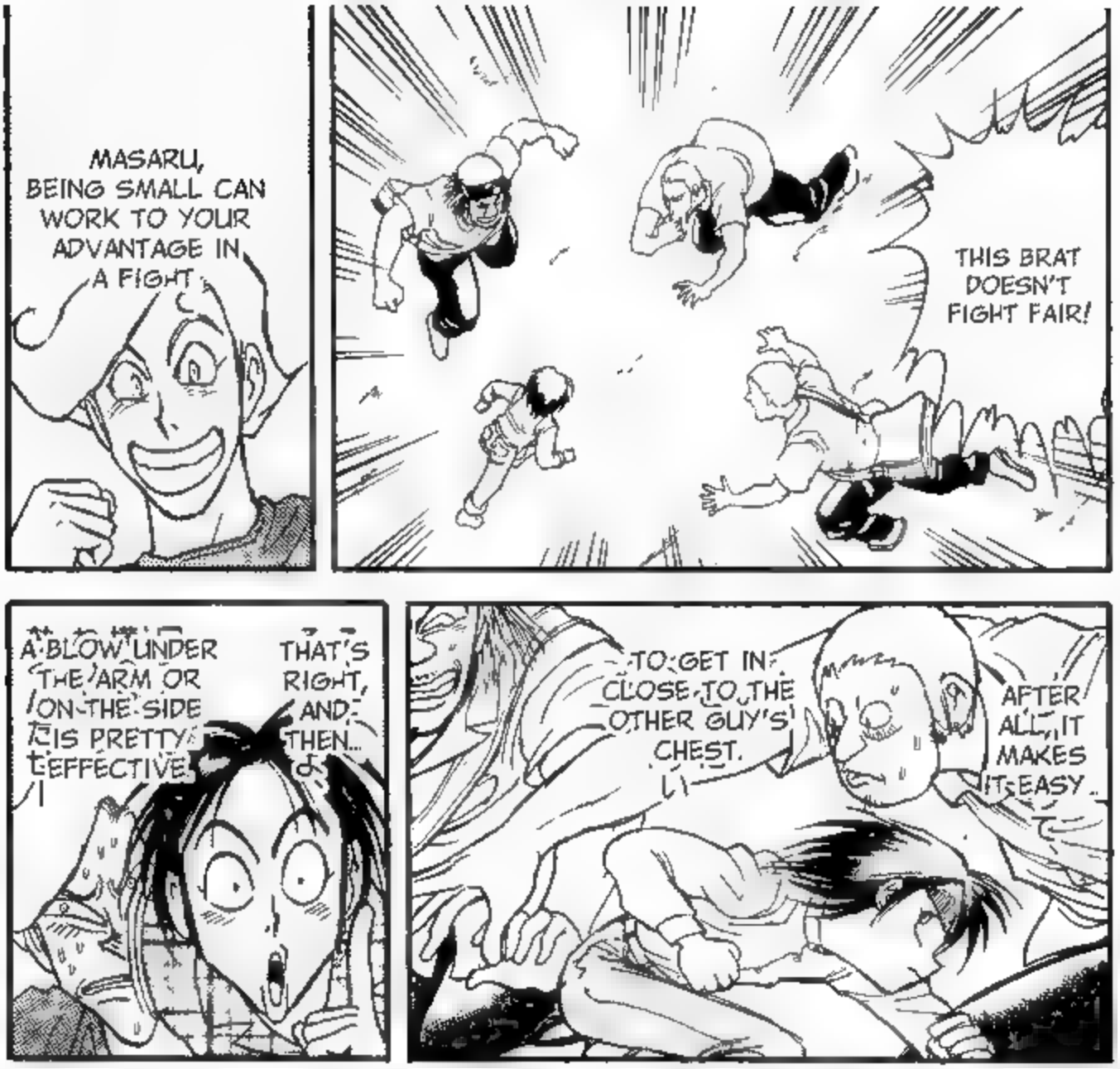
WHAT... WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?

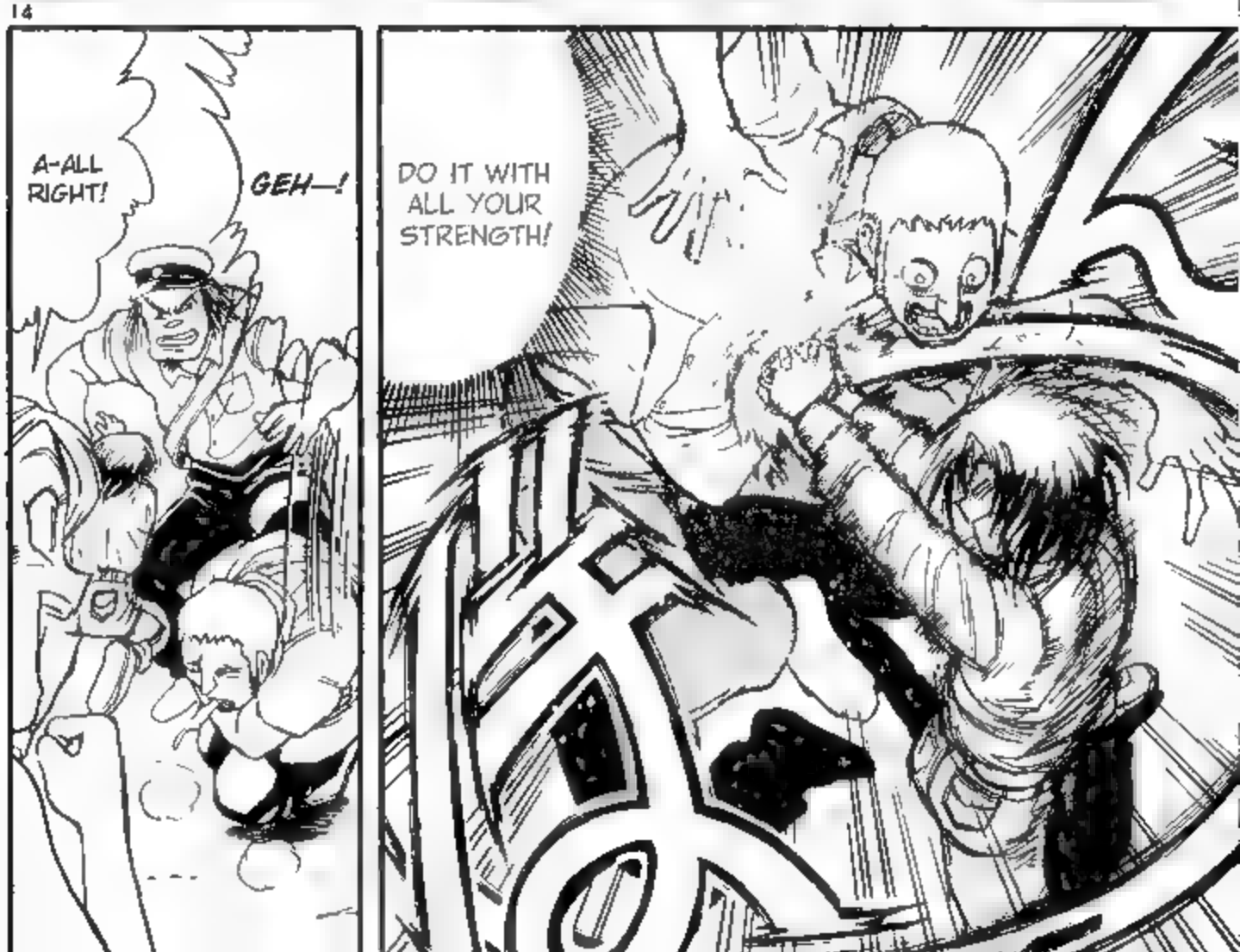
DON'T TOUCH UBUKATA-SAN.
BACK OFF.


"I AM STRONGER THAN A LION. I AM A FAR STRONGER BEAST"
THAT'S WHY, MASARU-SAN, I AM ALWAYS CHANTING SOMETHING INSIDE MY HEART
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I CAN COMMAND LIONS.
UFUFU. I'M SECOND CLASS COMPARED TO DRUM.
SO YOU'RE A WILD ANIMAL TRAINER, LIESE-SAN THAT'S HARD TO BELIEVE.
YOU CAN'T SHOW IT WHEN YOU'RE INSIDE THE CAGE.
IT IS. HOWEVER, ANIMALS CAN SENSE A HUMAN'S FEAR.
WOW, ISN'T THAT SCARY?

BACK OFF!
DIE YA LITTLE BRAT!

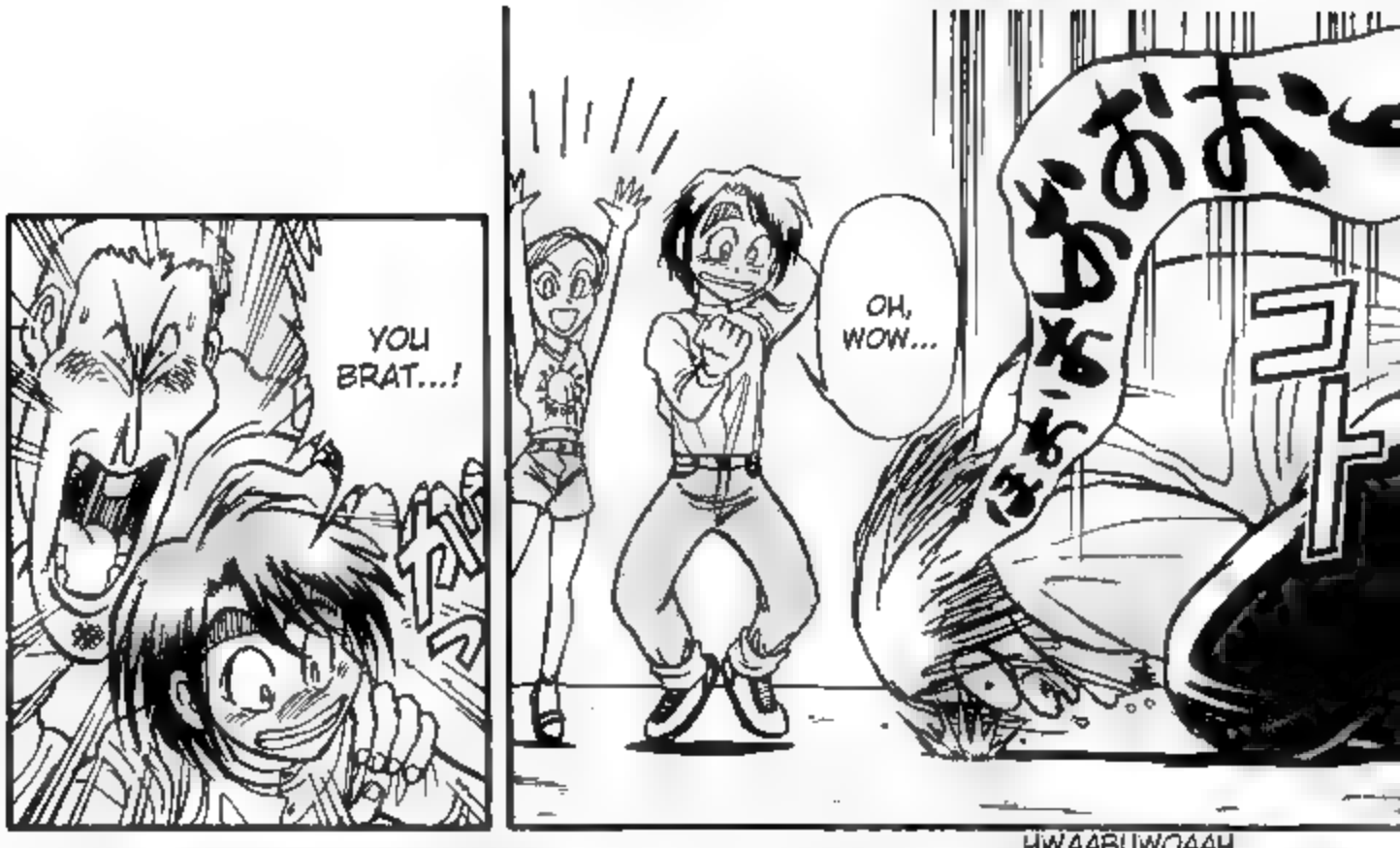
AHAHAHA. SO YOU'VE BEEN BULLIED IN SCHOOL?
ROCKS!?
YOU'RE A HUMAN BEING. YOU HAVE YOUR HEAD FOR A TOOL AS WELL, DON'T YOU?
HMPH. WHEN YOU'RE UP AGAINST A STRONG PERSON, I HANDLE IT IN YOUR OWN WAY
Y-YEAH. SINCE I'M NO GOOD AT FIGHTING...
YOU HAVE THAT KIND OF FEELING TO YOU.
13
THERE ARE MANY OTHER WAYS TO WIN!
IS IT A FAIR AND JUST WORLD WHERE THOSE WHO ARE GOOD AT FIGHTING CAN DO WHATEVER THEY WANT?
YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SAY THE THINGS YOU WANT TO
IF YOU USE YOUR WEAKNESS AS AN EXCUSE.
GIVE UP ON THE KNIFE, THOUGH.

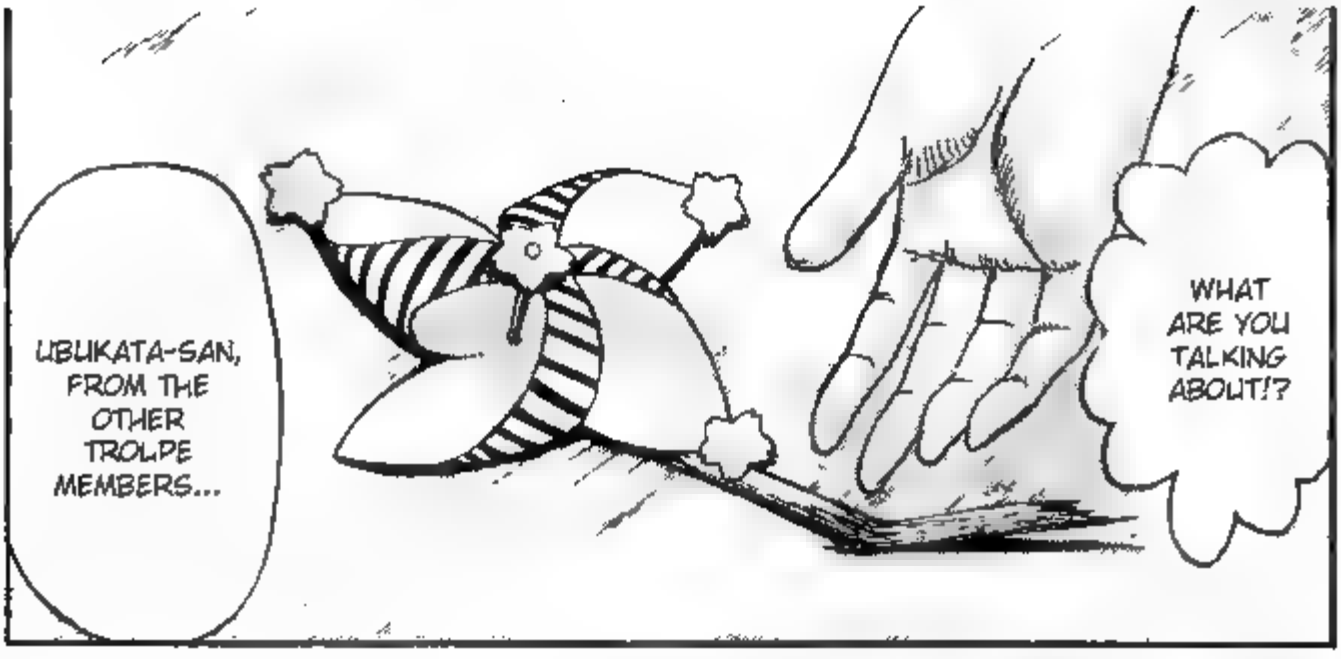

MASARU, BEING SMALL CAN WORK TO YOUR ADVANTAGE IN A FIGHT.
THIS BRAT DOESN'T FIGHT FAIR!
A BLOW UNDER THE ARM OR ON THE SIDE IS PRETTY EFFECTIVE.
THAT'S RIGHT, AND THEN...
TO GET IN CLOSE TO THE OTHER GUY'S CHEST.
AFTER ALL, IT MAKES IT EASY.

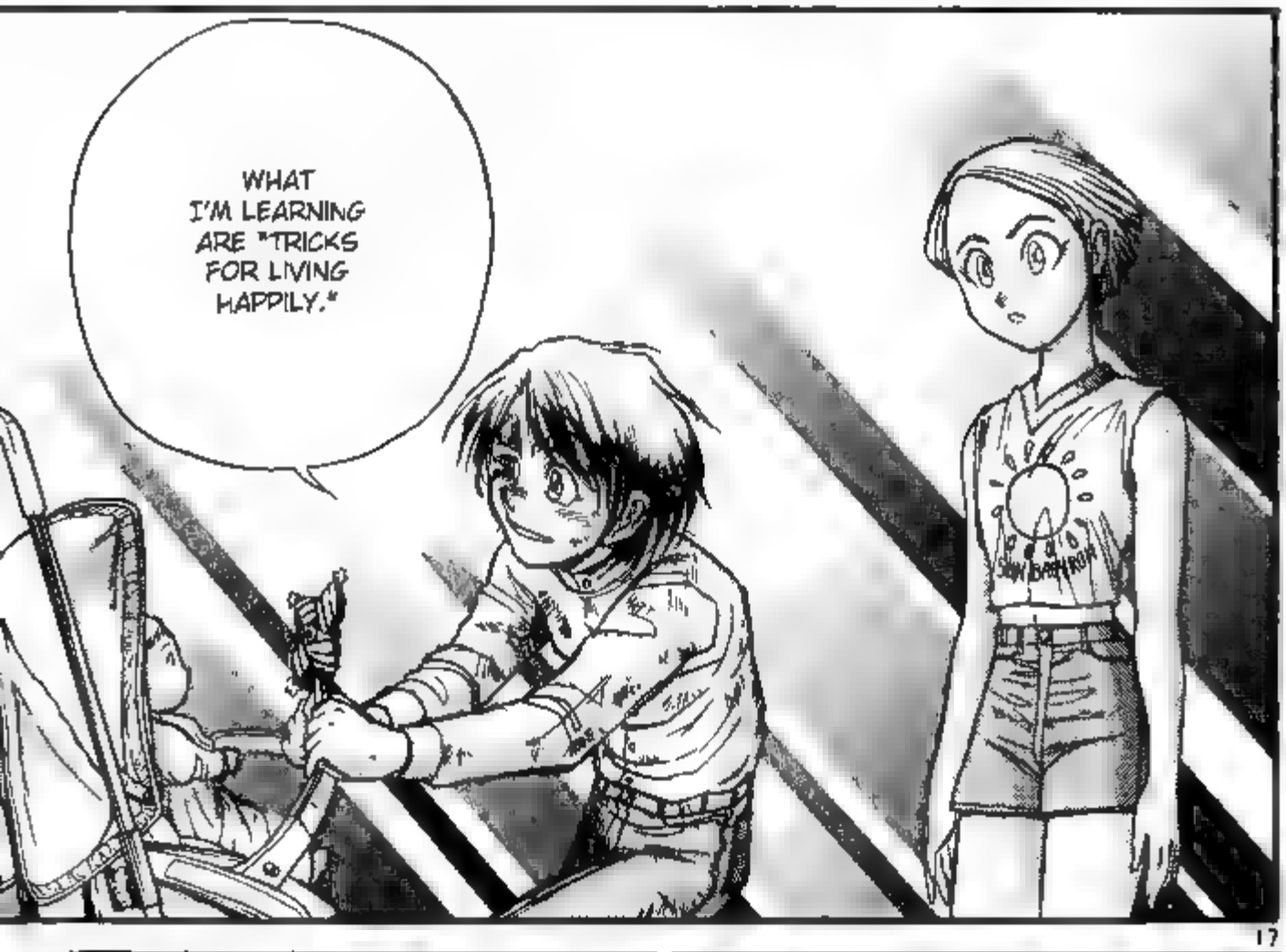

A-ALL RIGHT!
GEH—!
DO IT WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH!

BUT, YOU KNOW, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN A MAN CAN'T BACK DOWN
TIMES WHEN EVERYONE HAS TO USE GUTS!
YOU IDIOTS, DON'T TEACH MASARU THAT KIND OF STUFF.
D-DON'T FUCK WITH US...!
AND THEN...
DON'T CLOSE YOUR EYES AND YOU CAN'T LOSE.
GRIT YOUR TEETH. KEEP YOUR EYES ABSOLUTELY UNWAVERING.

PUT YOUR FIST STRAIGHT OUT!


YOU BRAT...!
OH, WOW...
おおおo
HWAABUWOAAH
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?
16
I'M STILL LEARNING TRICKS IN THE NAKA-MACHI CIRCUS.
HUH ...?
BUT ... YOU KNOW ...
SORRY ...
YOU REALLY ARE AN IDIOT!
SAIGA, ARE YOU OKAY!?
OW OW OW ...

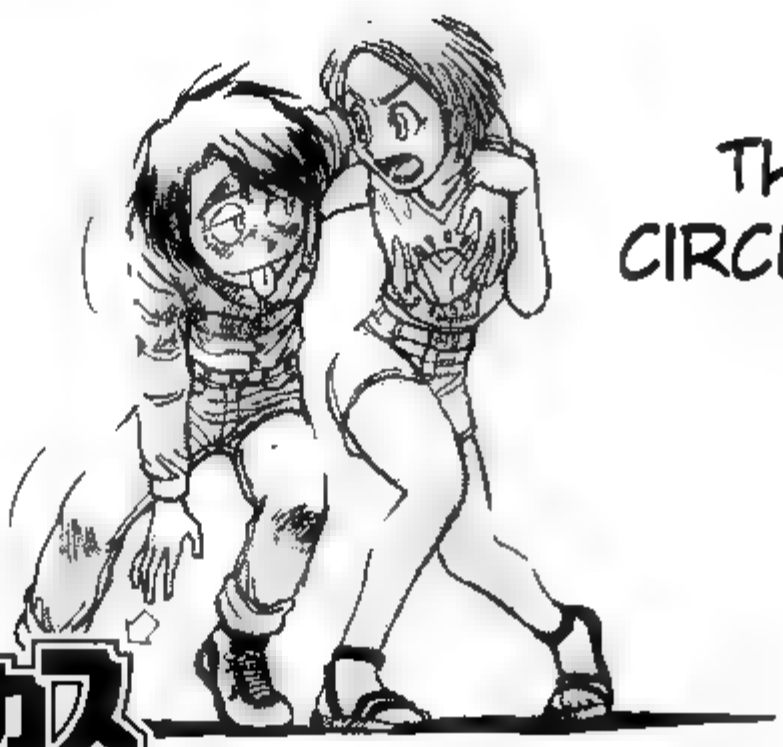

UBUKATA-SAN, FROM THE OTHER TROUPE MEMBERS...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?


WHAT I'M LEARNING ARE "TRICKS FOR LIVING HAPPILY."

17

I'M GONNA LEAVE YOU BEHIND, YOU KNOW!
BUT STILL... OWOWOW!
とほほ

IS NICE.



THE CIRCUS...

かくりサーカス
Le Cirque de Karakuri

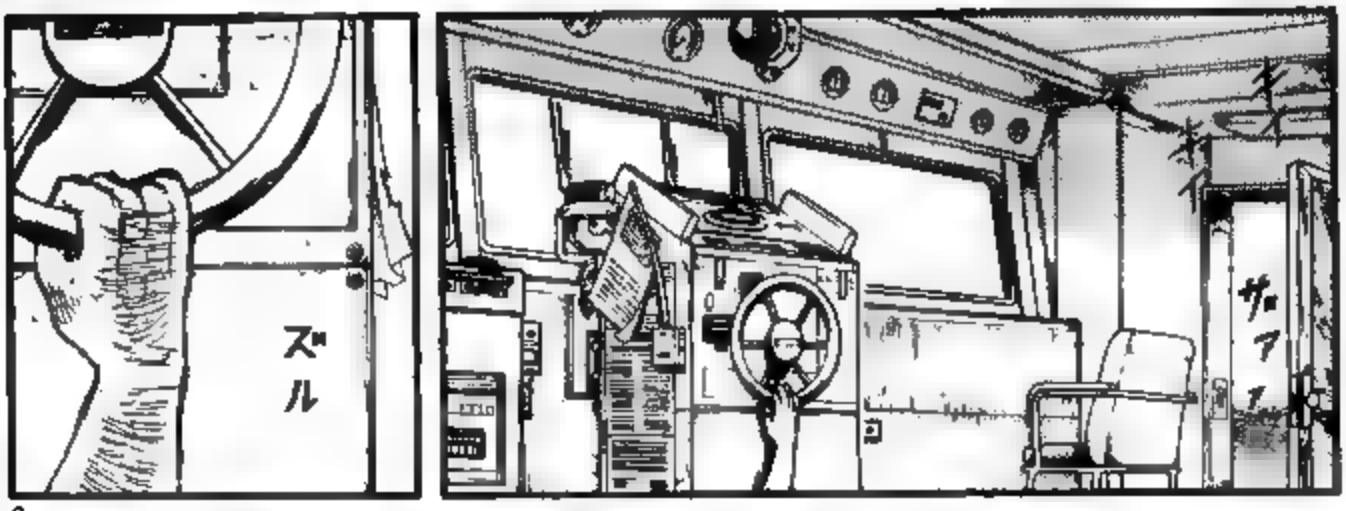
translation by funnuraba tumblr com

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums
for removing the Japanese text, and to the
anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill
is welcome to take over at any time or
to redo chapters I have already done
if they are below the quality that
this series deserves

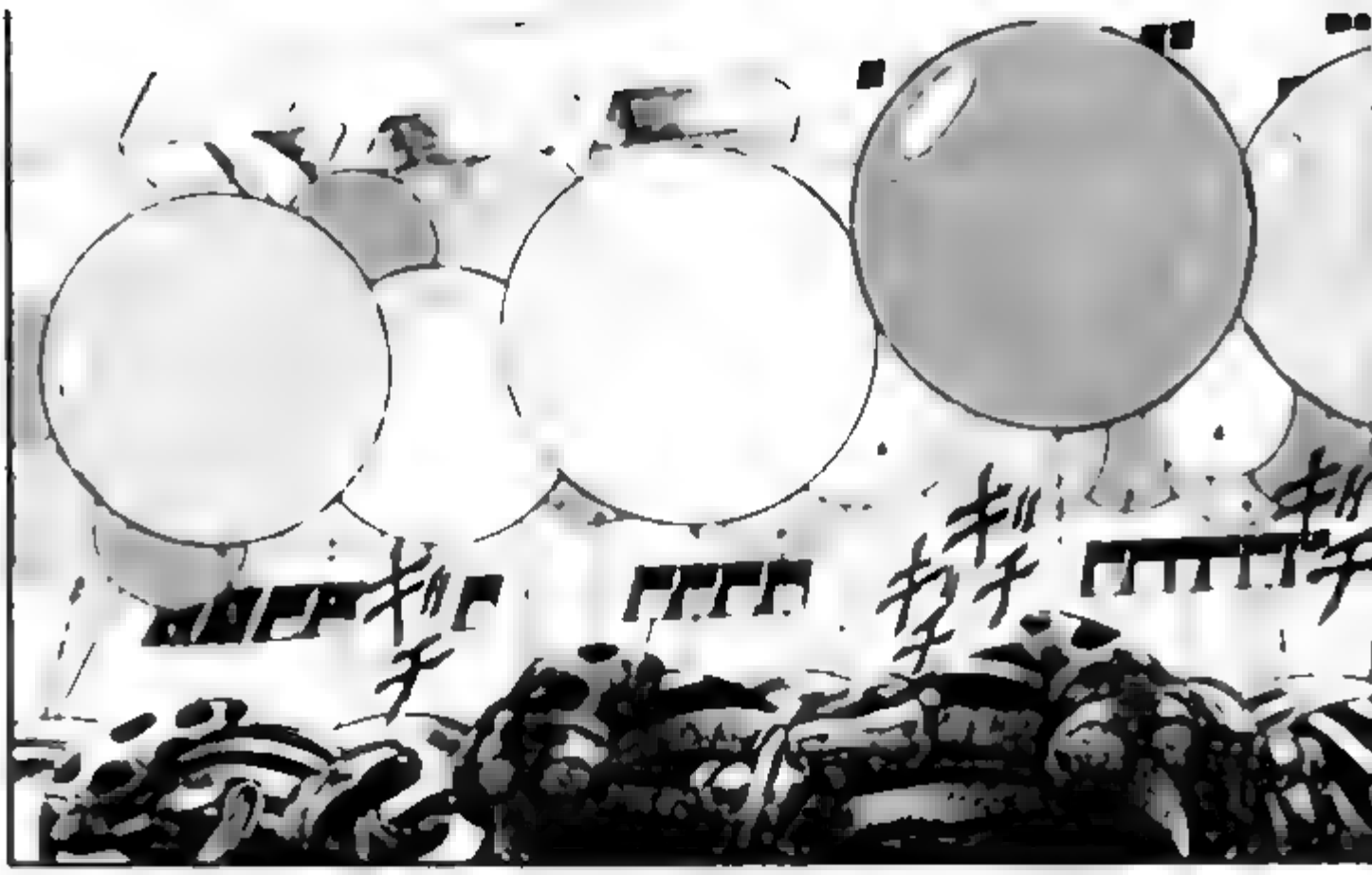
A Momentary Karakuri Circus~ Act 1

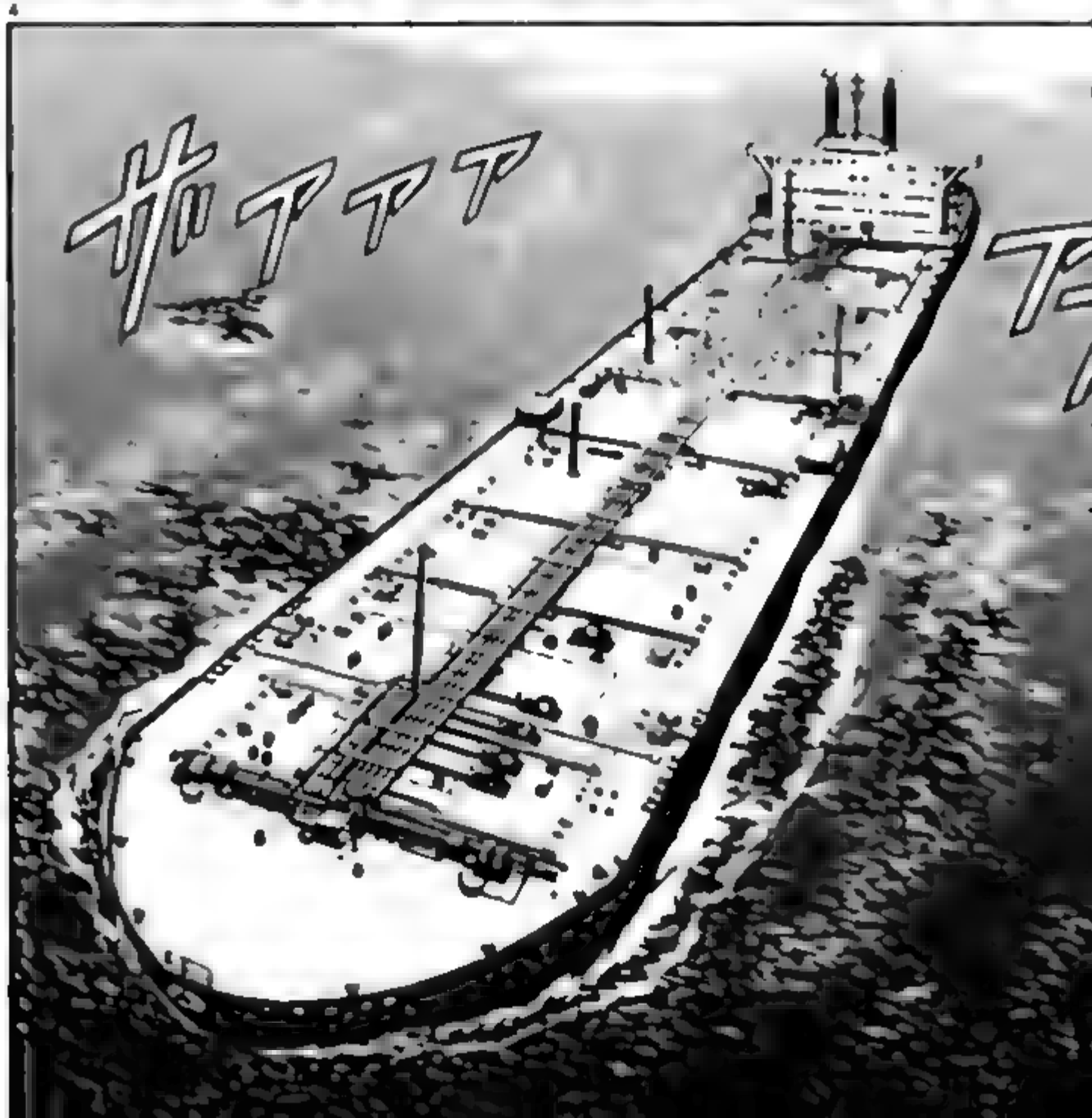
Opening Bell



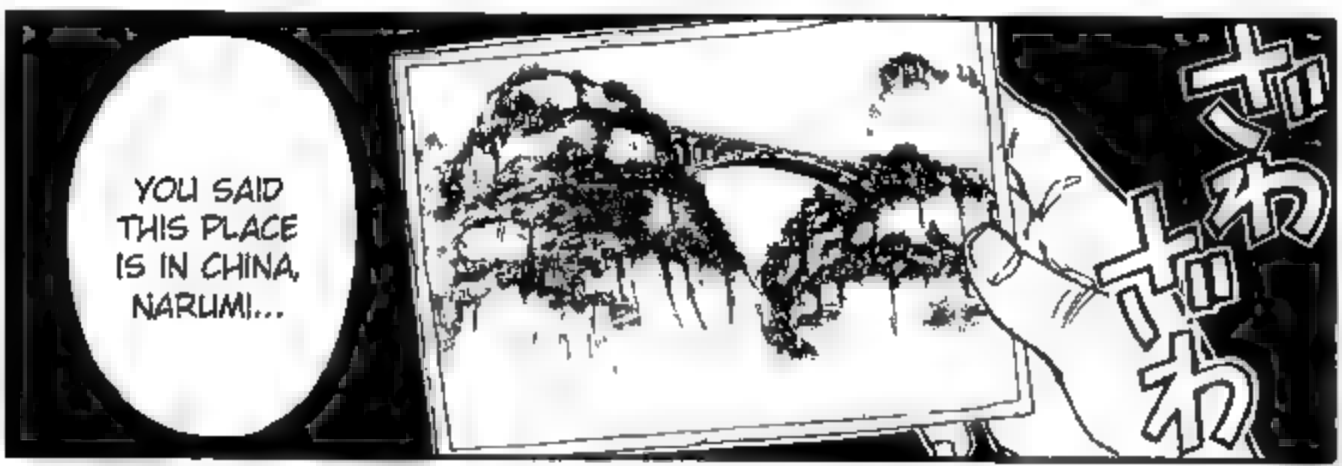
2

HUMANS WOULD USE ALL THIS UP IN ONLY AN INSTANT.
THIS AMOUNT OF FUEL ...
FUUN.
3
SINCE THIS FUEL WON'T BE USABLE SOON, EVEN IF WE WANT IT.
WELL, HERE WE GO. OUR TURN TO BE THE GREEDY ONES.
GREEDY DEVOURING IS THE ONLY THING THEY'RE GOOD AT.
FU-FUN.
THEY'RE REALLY OF NO USE TO THIS WORLD WHATSOEVER...
FU-FU-FUN
THE SPAZZA ARE SPLITTING UP. THE BALLOON SHOW'S ABOUT TO BEGIN.
ALL RIGHT, THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE.




ガアアア

AIRPORT TERMINAL
CARGO
FOR TERMINAL
AMERICA


YOU SAID THIS PLACE IS IN CHINA, NARUMI...

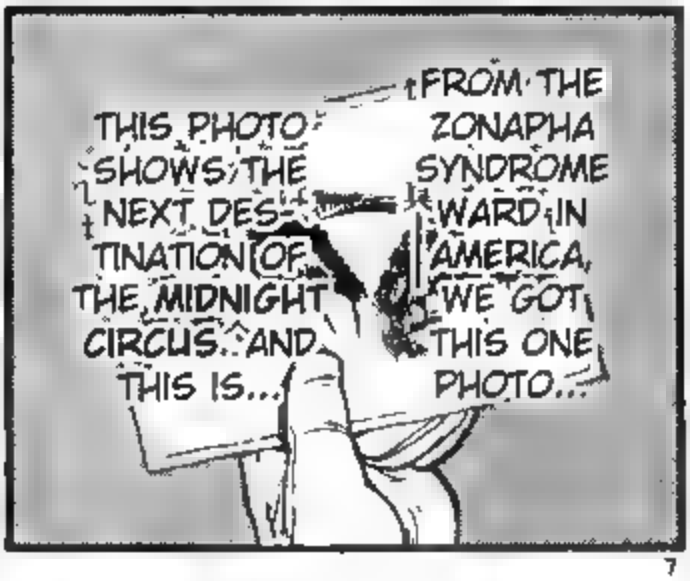
THAT'S RIGHT, GUY. I WAS SURPRISED WHEN I SAW IT.
AND MOREOVER, IT'S A PLACE YOU KNOW WELL?
SANDMAN

BUT THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT. IT'S A PLACE NEAR A TOWN WHERE I SPENT SOME TIME.
WE'RE GOING TO A COUNTRY FAR, FAR AWAY
TOM ...
PLEASE WIN.
NARUMI...
WHEN I THINK OF THE FACT THAT YOUR BRAIN IS EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF A SMALL DOG, I AM FILLED WITH ANXIETY ...
IS THAT SO?
QUIT ASKING THAT ALREADY! I'M SURE OF IT!
BUT IS IT TRUE? IT'S REALLY, AS YOU SAY, A PLACE ALONG THE YANGTZE RIVER?

AH, PROTECT ME, MAMAN...I WANT TO EAT SOME SWEET CHOCOLATE...
I'VE BEEN TOUCHED BY THE BLACK HAND OF A DEATH GOD...

ぱー
MAMAN ...
MAMAN WAS GENTLE ...

SOMETHING OUT OF MY MEMORIES. A PLACE NEAR A TOWN ALONG THE YANGTZE RIVER IN CHINA.


THIS PHOTO SHOWS THE NEXT DESTINATION OF THE MIDNIGHT CIRCUS. AND THIS IS...
FROM THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME WARD IN AMERICA. WE GOT THIS ONE PHOTO...

THIS GUY REALLY IS—!
I WANT TO EAT A SWEET MILLE-FEUILLE.
AHH, MAMAN, PROTECT ME...
ほむ ほむ ほむ ほむ

ALL THE MORE BEAUTIFUL. I DO HOPE YOU'LL BE TRAVELING WITH US.
TO JOURNEY WITH SUCH A LADY WOULD MAKE THE COLOR OF FOREIGN SKIES ...

GUY, LUCILLE AND I ARE HEADED THERE NOW.
IT'S ALMOST TIME. GUY, WHAT ABOUT LUCILLE?

WOW, WHAT'S IN THAT HUGE TRUNK?
A PRE-CAUTION FOR AIR TRAVEL.

OH, LUCILLE.
YES. I'D ASKED FOR THIS TO BE DELIVERED, AND IT WAS DELAYED.
ガラ
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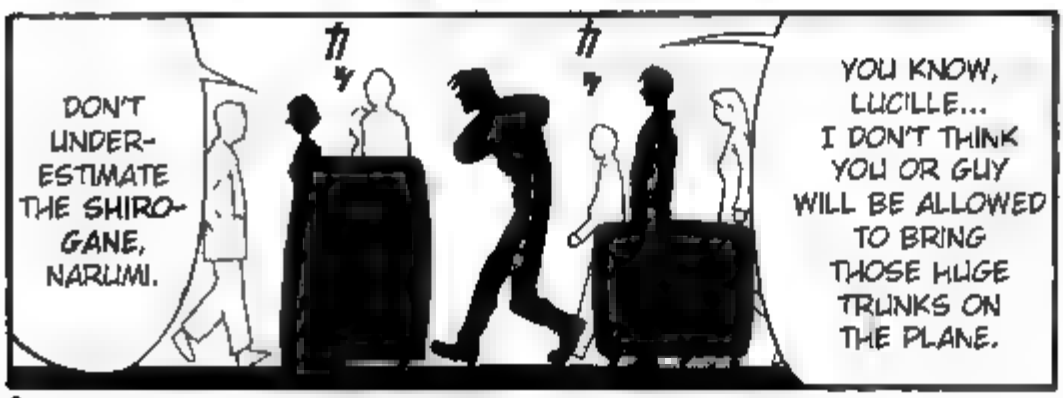
A PRECAUTION? SO YOU'VE GOT A PARACHUTE IN THERE?


DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THE SHIRO-GANE, NARUMI.
YOU KNOW, LUCILLE... I DON'T THINK YOU OR GUY WILL BE ALLOWED TO BRING THOSE HUGE TRUNKS ON THE PLANE.

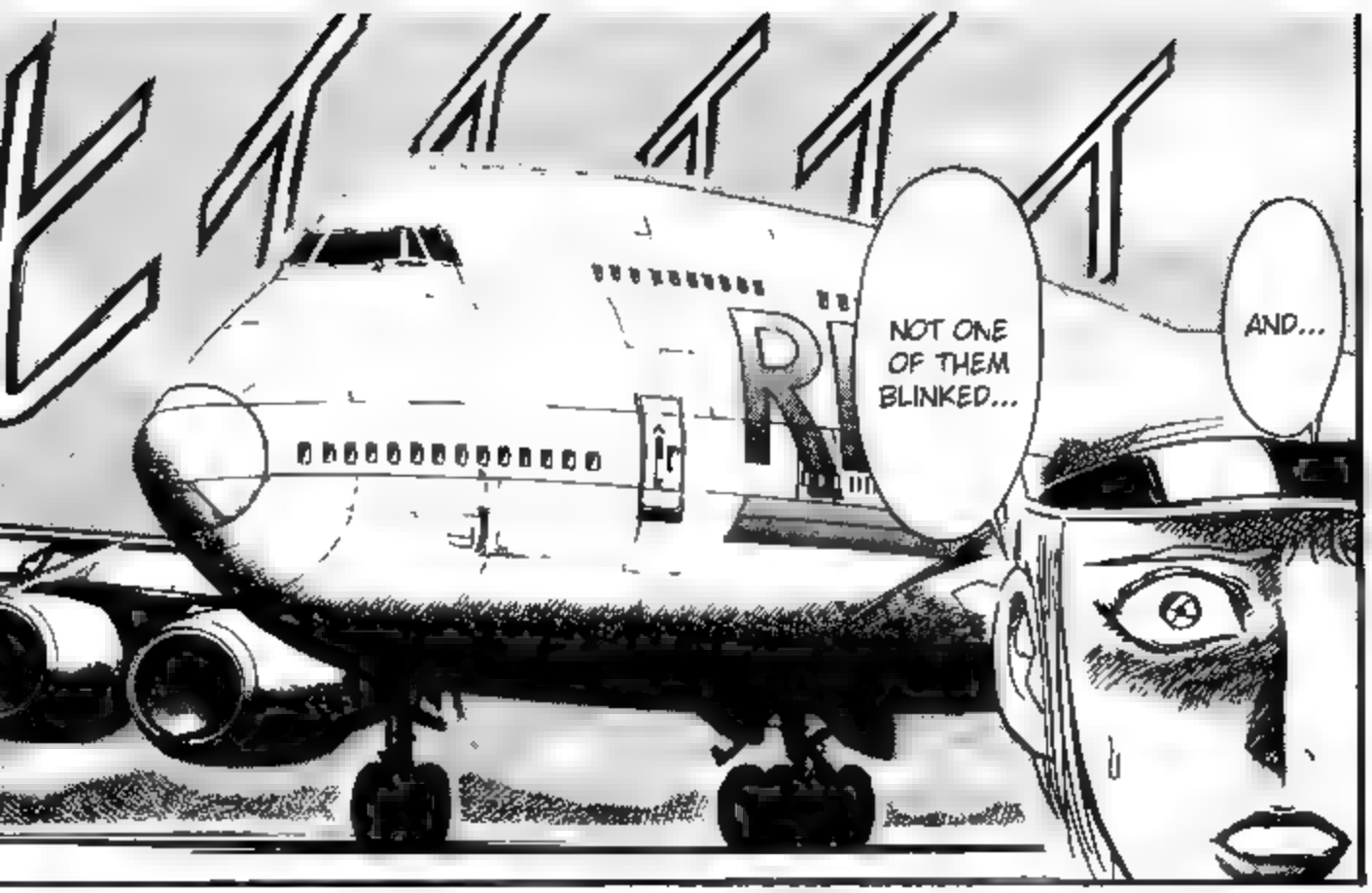
IT'S OLYMPIA.

8

WE ARE AFFORDED CERTAIN PRIVILEGES WHEN TRAVELING.

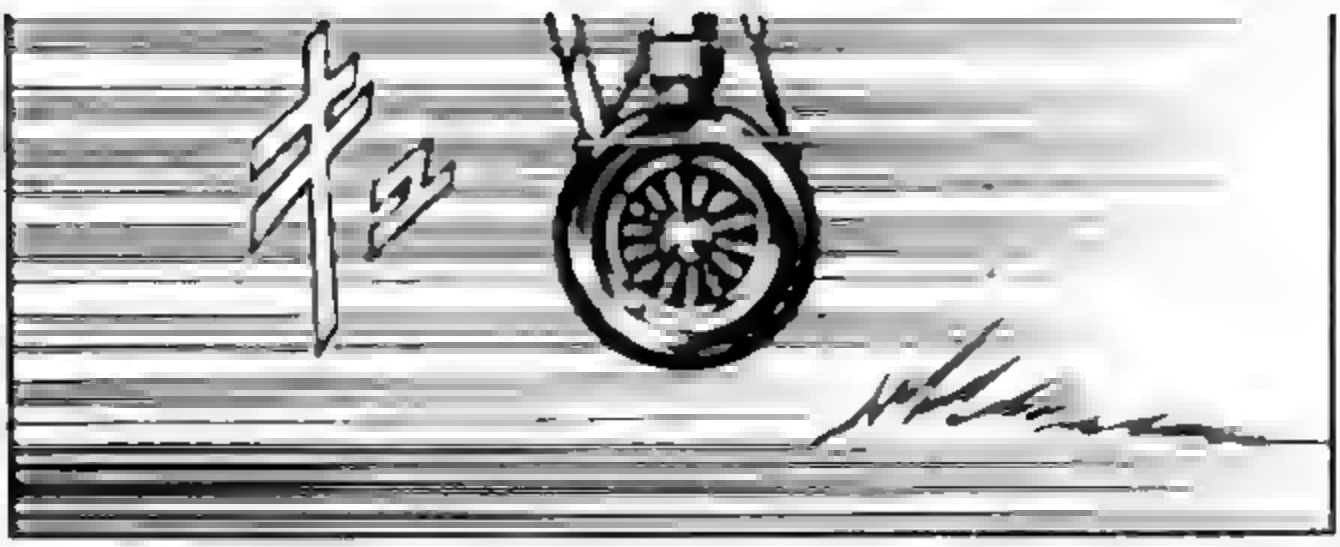
A FREE PASS...
ガーラララララ
THIS WAY.
AND IF WE EXPLAINED WHAT WAS IN OUR BAGGAGE, THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT ANYWAY.
IF EVERY LITTLE LEGALITY APPLIED TO US, WE SHIROGANE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CHASE AFTER THE AUTOMATA ...
THAT SURE IS A SURPRISE.
9
ER... EXCUSE ME, SIR. DON'T YOU HAVE ANY BAGGAGE?

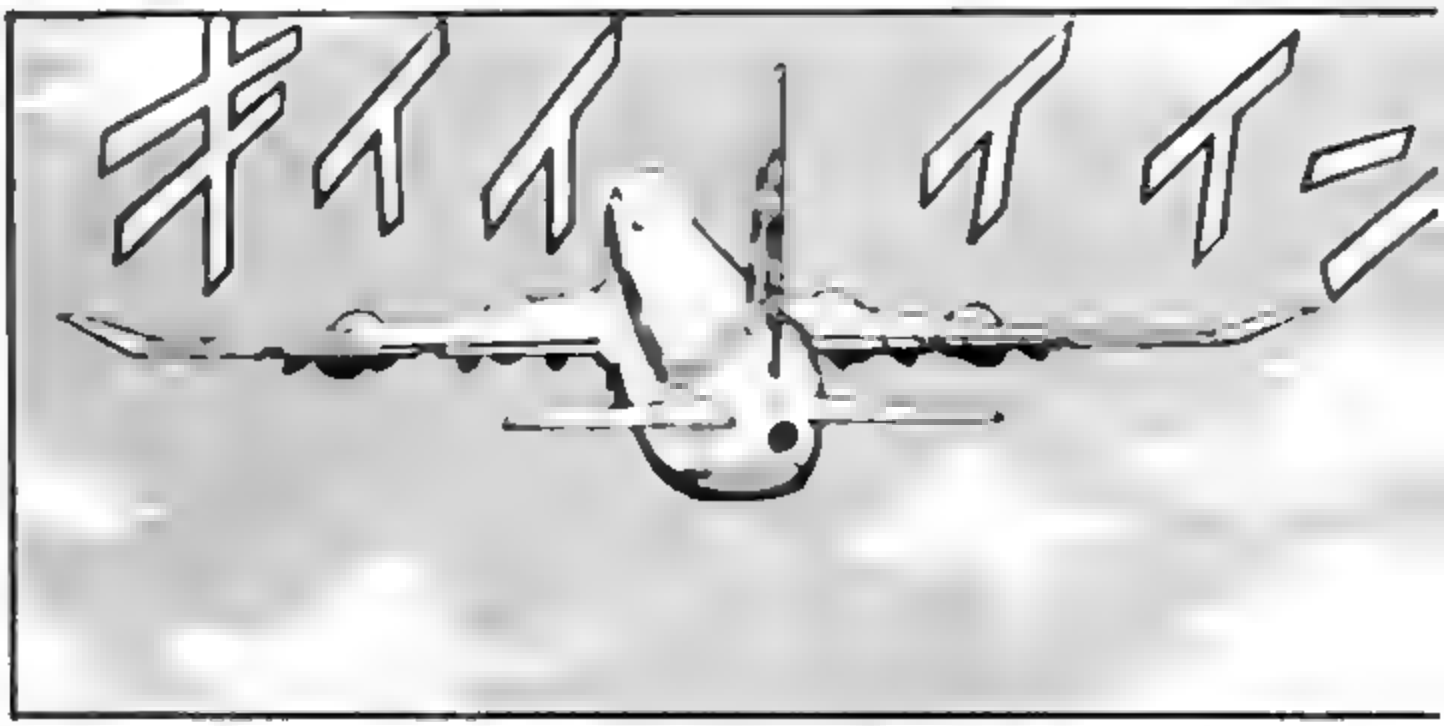
NOTHING
NO...

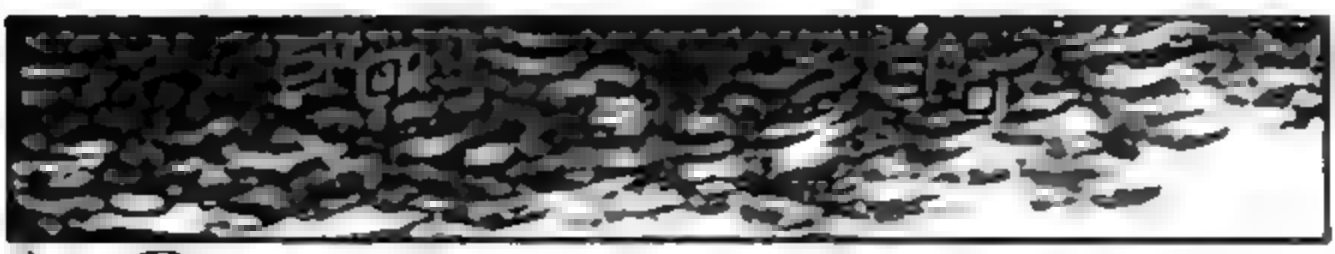

NOT ONE OF THEM BLINKED...
AND...

JEEZ, YOU SHIROGANE SURE DO CUT THROUGH THE BULLSHIT.
THIS PLANE IS HEADED FOR SHANGHAI PUDONG NATIONAL AIRPORT.

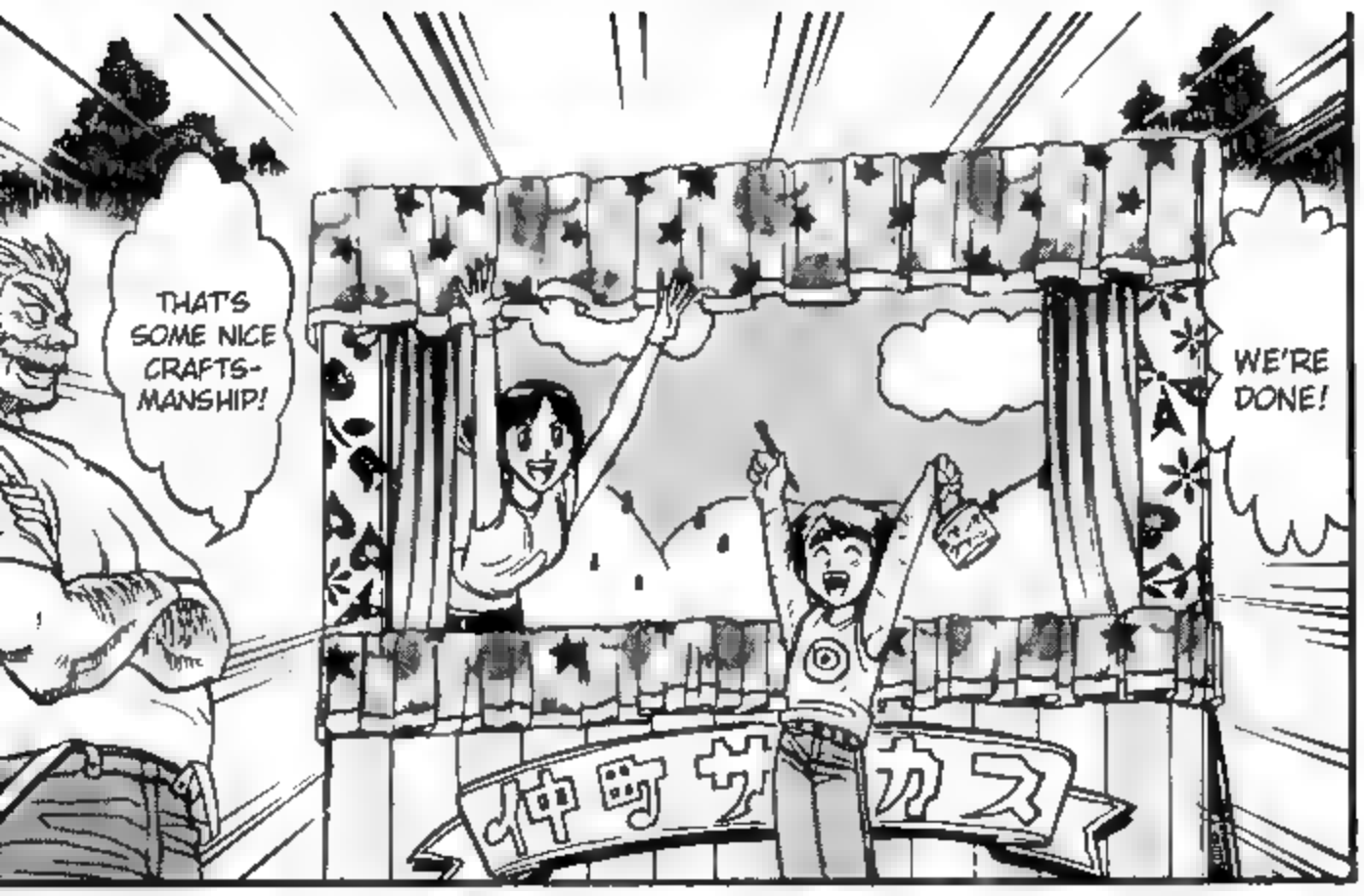
WE WILL BE DEPARTING SHORTLY.







AND THAT'S IT!
JAPAN: 10 DAYS EARLIER


THAT'S SOME NICE CRAFTS-MANSHIP!
WE'RE DONE!
仲町サーカス

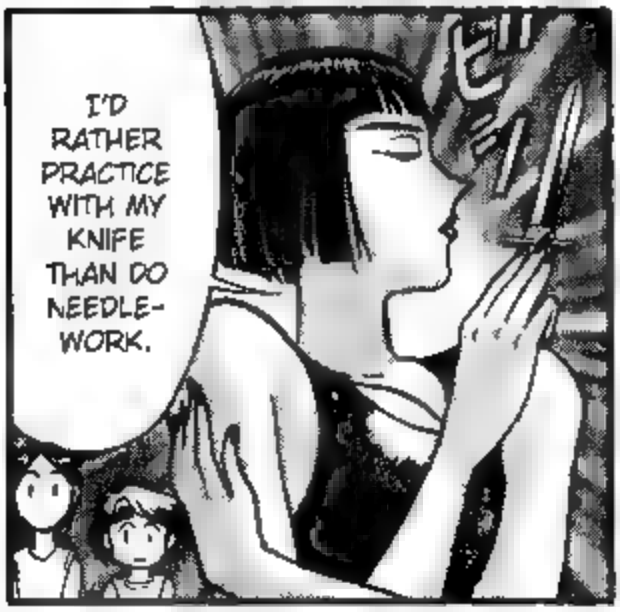
AND YOU GAVE THE WHOLE THING A GOOD FIRM FRAMEWORK SO IT WON'T FALL APART.
BEFORE, IT WAS CUT OUT OF PAPER AND STUCK ON WITH DUCT TAPE.
WE USED GOOD FABRIC AND SEWED IT TIGHTLY, SO THE CURTAIN WON'T COME OFF LIKE BEFORE.

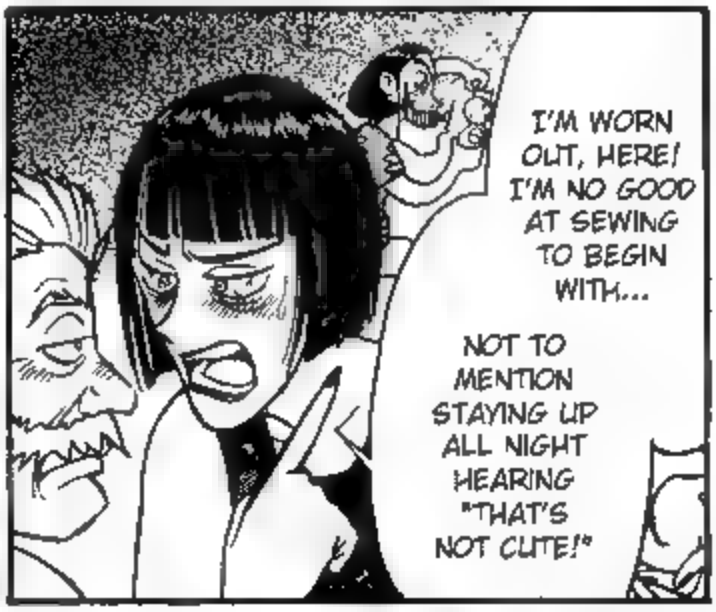
HMPH, JUST IMAGINE. THE FORMER RINGMASTER OF A CIRCUS MAKING DOLLS, OF ALL THINGS.

AH, THE DOLLS ARE DONE TOO.
NAKA-MACHI, WE'RE DONE HERE.

NAKAMACHI! WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING!? HERE! THE BUTT!! THE BUTT IS WHAT MAKES THIS DOLLIE CUTE!
Uh- what?

IS THIS MITSUUSHI GUY REALLY INTO THIS STUFF, BY ANY CHANCE?
AND HERE! THIS DOLL'S KEY POINT IS THE SHAPE OF ITS NOSE!


I'D RATHER PRACTICE WITH MY KNIFE THAN DO NEEDLE-WORK.


I'M WORN OUT, HERE! I'M NO GOOD AT SEWING TO BEGIN WITH...
NOT TO MENTION STAYING UP ALL NIGHT HEARING "THAT'S NOT CUTE!"

snip
OH, THAT KNIFE WILL DO JUST FINE.

OLD MAAAN!

THAT LOOKS QUITE DIFFICULT.
AHHH ...
THE LITTLE PRINCE'S NECK HAS THREADS STICKING OUT. CUT THEM OFF.
VI.MA, YOU WERE A BIT CARELESS, WEREN'T YOU?
Wow
Yeah

FALL APART IN THE MIDDLE... LIKE THEY USED TO...
THEY DON'T...
THESE NEW CHAIRS FEEL AWESOME.
I SEE.
GEH!
OLD MAAAN!
NORI, YOU OAF! YOU'RE THE ONE FALLING APART!

HEY, HIRO, YOU'VE DONE TIGHTROPE WALKING BEFORE, RIGHT?
YOU BETCHER BOOTS, OLD MAN!!
"BOOTS" ?
SHIROGANE, YOU'RE GOOD AT THIS TOO, HUH...

YOU'RE SURE IN HIGH SPIRITS, AREN'T YOU?

YEAH! THIS IS IN THE BAG, OLD MAN!
"BAG" ?
WITH THIS EQUIPMENT, WE WON'T EXACTLY BE DOING A HIGH WIRE ACT...
BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF WAYS TO GET THE AUDIENCE STIRRED UP WITH FLASHY MATERIAL.

YEAH. IT'S THANKS TO YOU THAT WE WERE ABLE TO BORROW THIS EQUIPMENT FROM UBUKATA.
WITH THIS, OUR SETUP IS DONE, BOSS.

THAT IDIOT NAOTA IS ALL DOWN 'CAUSE SHIROGANE'S GONNA BE PAIRING UP WITH HIRO.
I CAN TELL YOU'RE FIRED UP FROM THAT ENERGETIC VOICE.
?
I am too

NO, I...

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE, THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS...
CAN PUT ON A RESPECTABLE PERFORMANCE, LIESE-SAN.
YES.

17

UH-OH...

HUH?

GET THE EQUIPMENT PUT AWAY!
IT'S RAIN-ING!

IT'LL BE RAINING ALL THROUGH NEXT WEEK!
THE RADIO SAYS ...

NA-KA-MA-CHI!
WE CAN'T DO THAT IF IT'S RAINING...
WE'RE GONNA BE PERFORMING OUTSIDE.

18

キャー
WE NEED A TENT!

WHAT!?

translation by funnjraba tumblr com

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this series deserves

Act 2
Performance Preparation

ザアアア
YOU DON'T NEED A KNIFE TO KILL AN ENTER-TAINER...

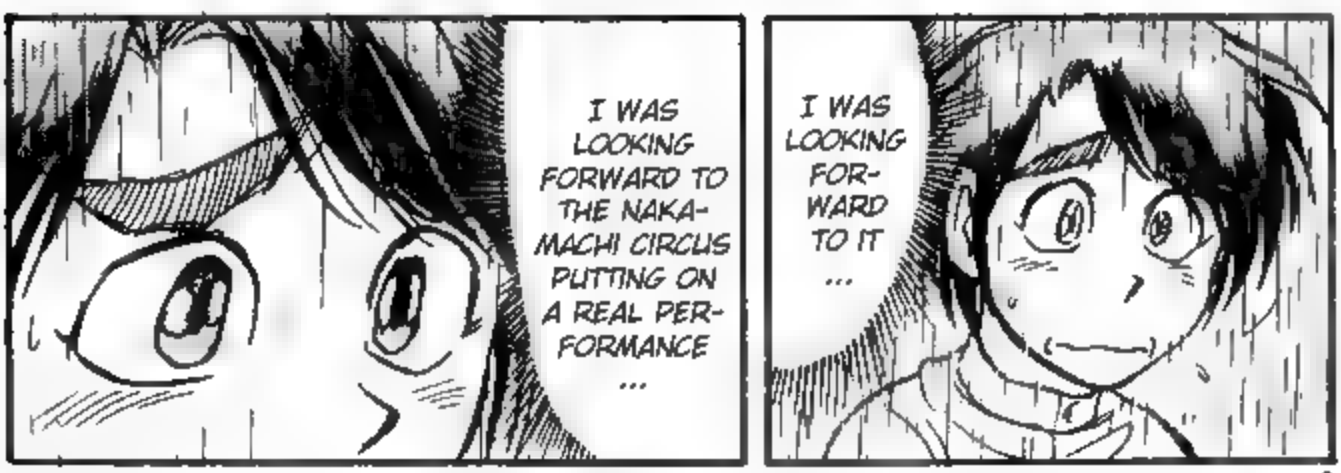
ALL YOU NEED IS THREE DAYS OF RAIN... THEY SAY.
アアア

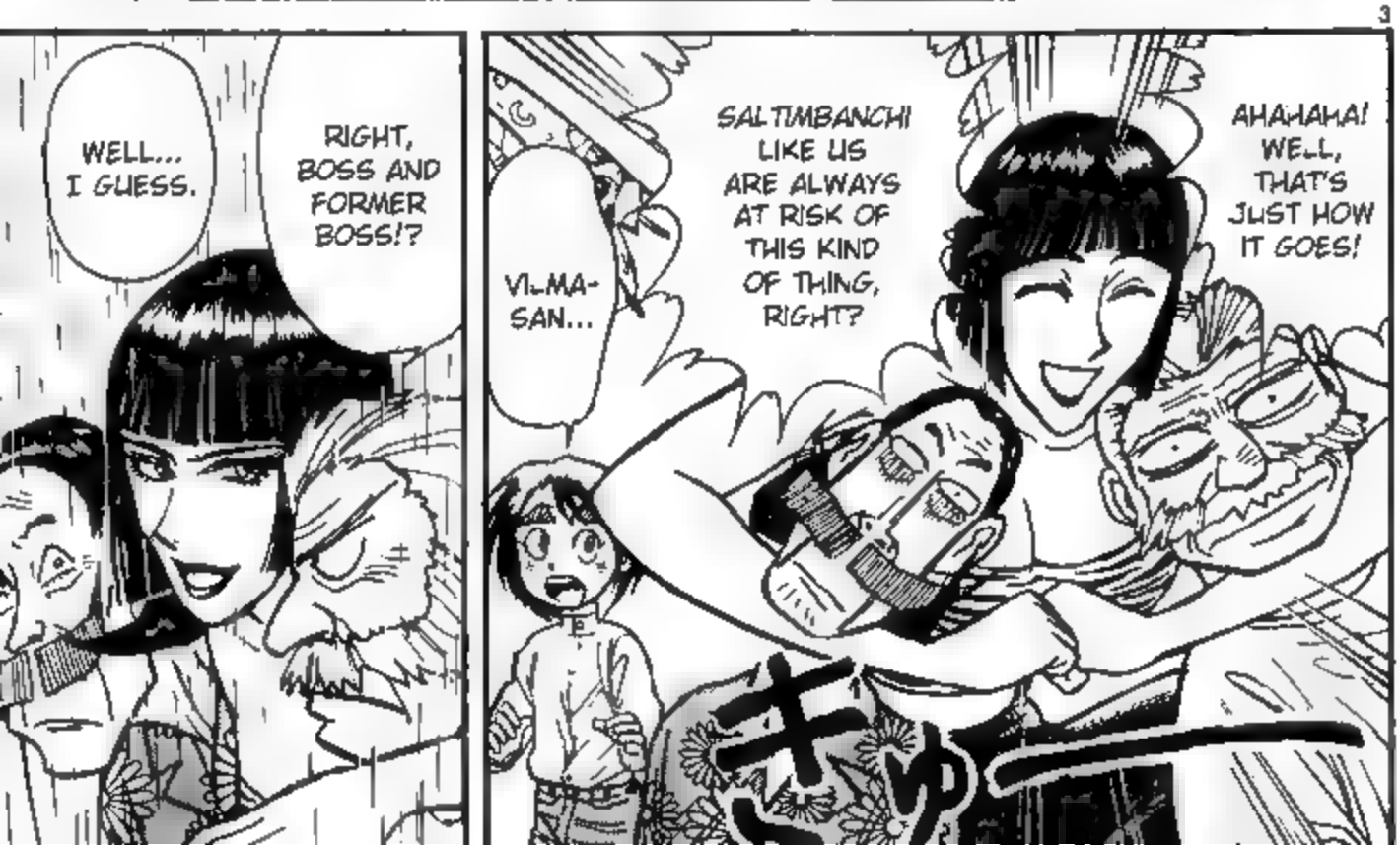
2

TCH ...
THE CIRCUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN DEPENDENT ON THE WEATHER ...
ゲンナリ

SHUT UP ALREADY! WHINING ISN'T GONNA STOP THE RAIN!
IF THE RAIN DOESN'T LET UP WE WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP OUR FOOTING!
TELL ME THIS ISN'T HAPPENING! DAMN IT!
はひゃ
はひゃ
はひゃ

THE RADIO SAID THIS RAIN IS GOING TO CONTINUE INTO NEXT WEEK WITHOUT STOPPING.
WITHOUT A TENT... WE'RE IN TROUBLE ...
MM ...


I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NAKA-MACHI CIRCUS PUTTING ON A REAL PER-FORMANCE ...
I WAS LOOKING FOR-WARD TO IT ...

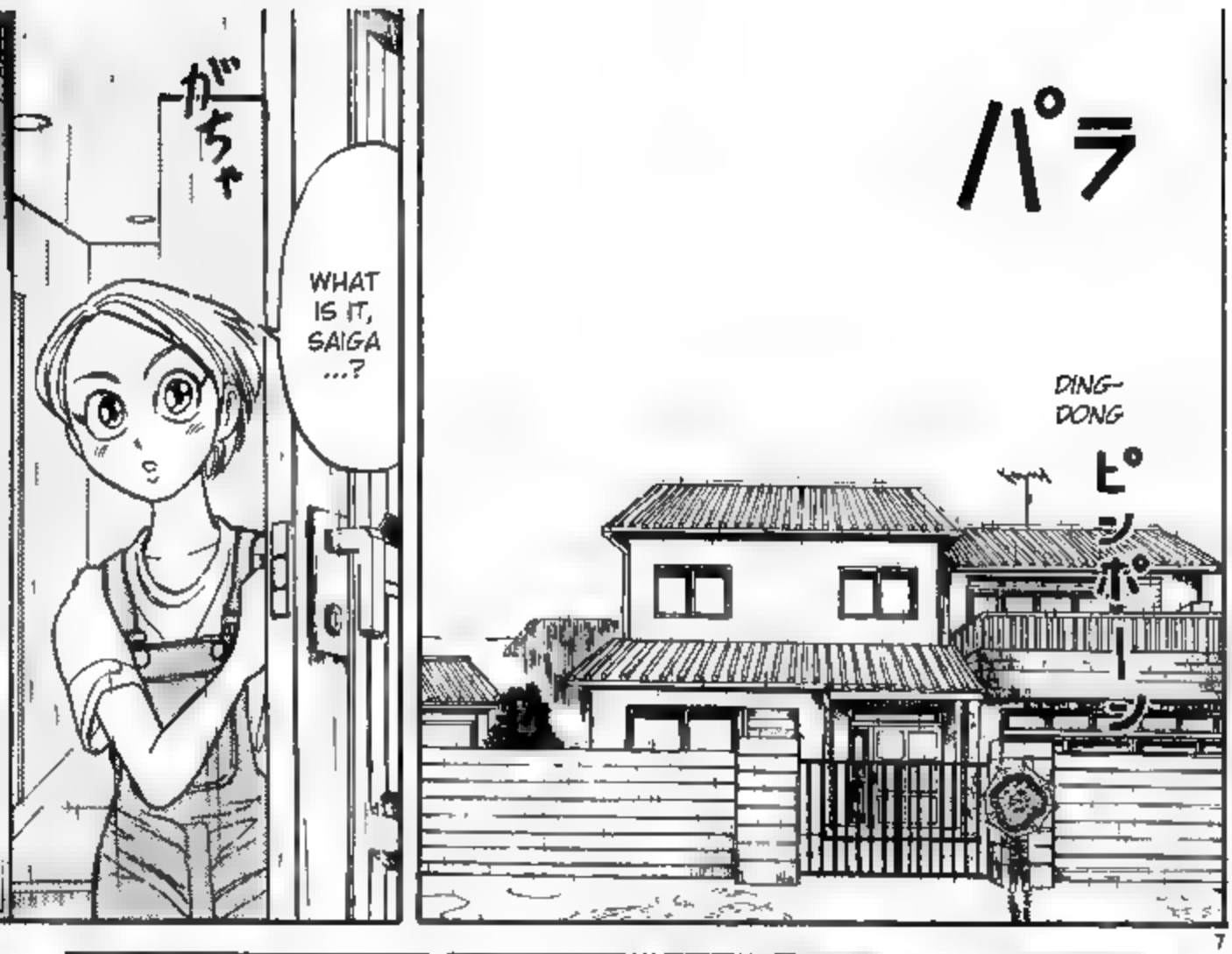

WELL... I GUESS.
RIGHT, BOSS AND FORMER BOSS!?
VI.MA-SAN...
SALTIMBANCHI LIKE US ARE ALWAYS AT RISK OF THIS KIND OF THING, RIGHT?
AHAHAHA! WELL, THAT'S JUST HOW IT GOES!

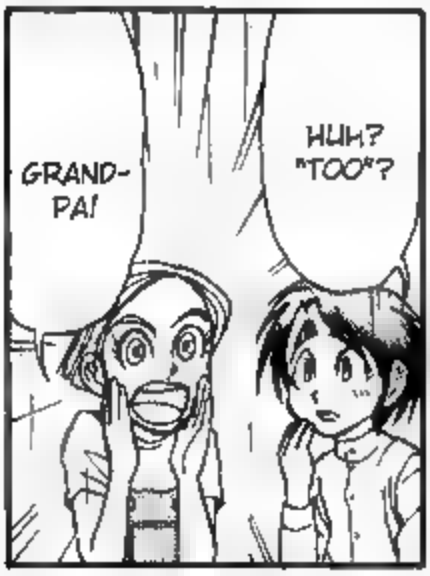
TCH, THERE'S NO HELPING IT.
BUT, VILMA-SAN...
GETTING ALL DEPRESSED ISN'T MUCH USE. WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE RAIN STOPS.
YES ...
LET US BE OFF.
GUYS ...
LET'S GO HOME.
IT'S AS VILMA SAYS.

PIPE DOWN! LET'S HURRY UP AND GO HOME !!
NAKA-MACHI-SAN!
I THOUGHT WE COULD DO THIS IF WE REALLY TRIED...
THERE... THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN THINK OF!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST, MASARU?

IF YOU STOP AT EACH ONE, YOU WILL NEVER ARRIVE ANYWHERE.
TO LIVE IN THE CIRCUS IS TO JOURNEY THROUGH MANY DIFFERENT CHALLENGES.
SHIROGANE, AREN'T YOU DISAPPOINTED? EVERYONE WAS SO ENTHUSIASTIC... YOU WERE, TOO...
COME ALONG, YOUNG MASTER.
LIESE-SAN, TOO...
MASARU-SAN, THIS WILL NOT BE THE END OF THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS.
SHIRO-GANE ...
ガタン ガタン
Mm. Mm.
No room

I CAN'T BELIEVE EVERYONE WOULD GIVE UP SO EASILY!
WELL, I'M NOT GIVING UP!!
BECAUSE THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS IS FUN.
EVEN I WENT THROUGH IMPRESSIVE TRAINING.
SO...I THINK I CAN BE USEFUL TO EVERYONE, JUST A LITTLE BIT...
IT HAS TO BE...
WE HAVE MONEY, BUT...
BUYING IT WON'T WORK. WE OPEN NEXT WEEK, AND IT MIGHT NOT GET HERE IN TIME.
A TENT!
AS LONG AS WE HAVE A TENT, WE CAN MANAGE EVEN IF THERE'S A LOT OF RAIN.
IN THAT CASE ...
HOW CAN I...

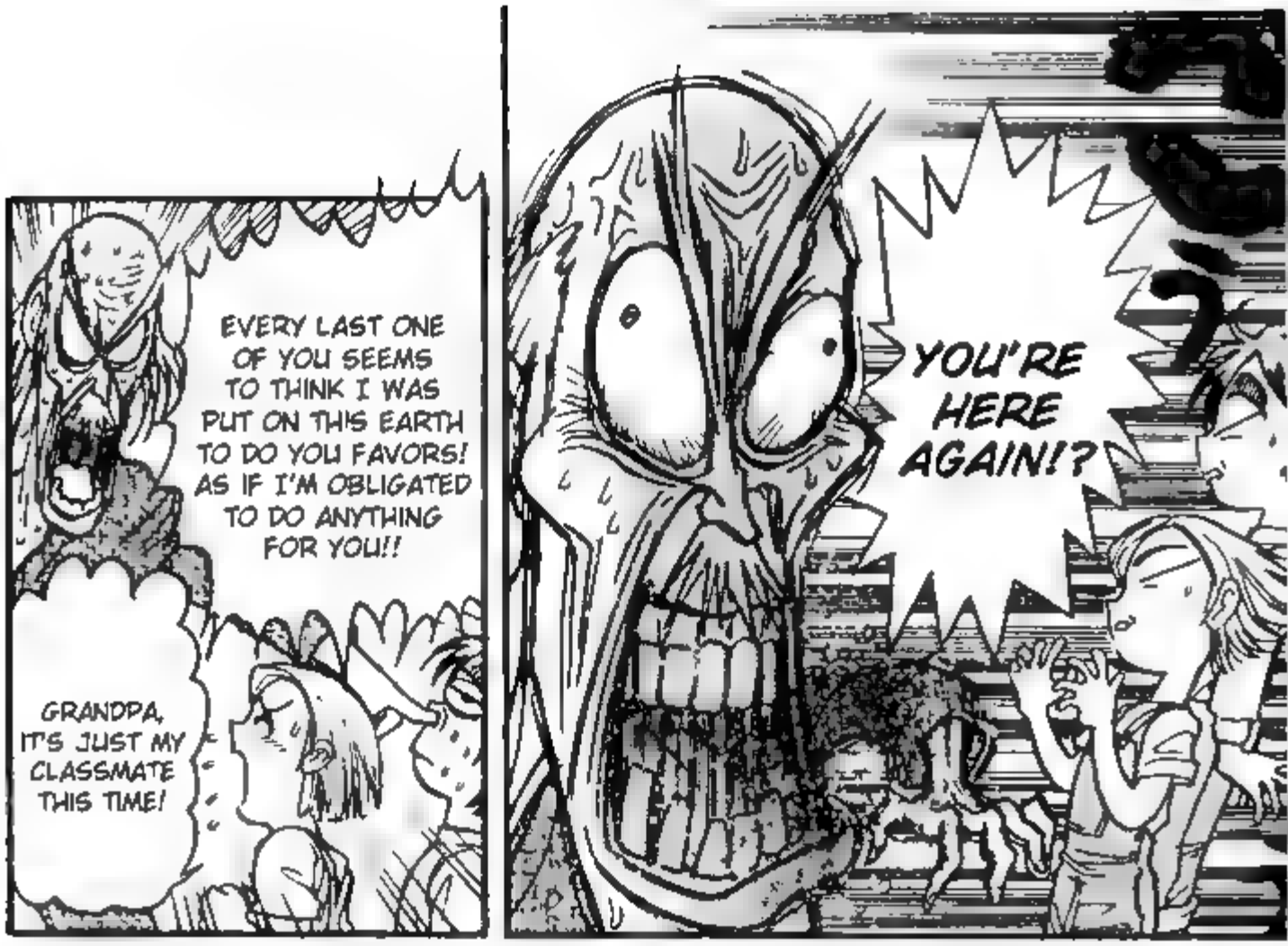

パラ
ガチャ
WHAT IS IT, SAIGA ...?
DING-DONG
ピンポーン
7

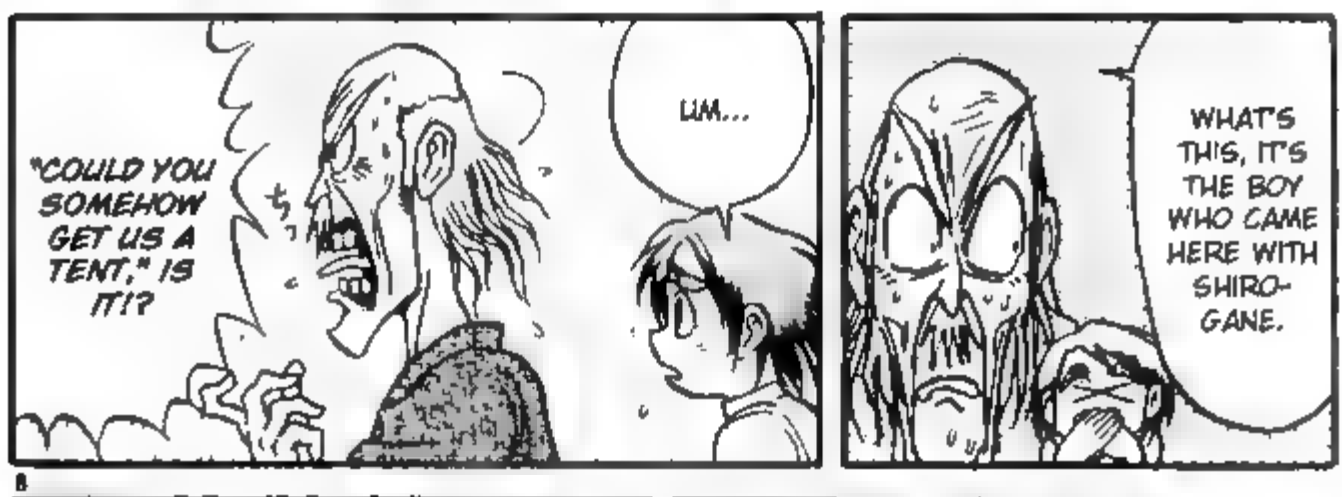

GRAND-PA!
HUH? "TOO"?

WHAT, YOU TOO?

UH... UM...
I... HAVE A FAVOR... TO ASK OF YOUR GRAND-FATHER.
IF I CAN.

サァァ
SOMEONE'S COME TO ASK YOU A FAVOR AGAIN.


EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU SEEMS TO THINK I WAS PUT ON THIS EARTH TO DO YOU FAVORS! AS IF I'M OBLIGATED TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU!!
GRANDPA, IT'S JUST MY CLASSMATE THIS TIME!
YOU'RE HERE AGAIN!?


"COULD YOU SOMEHOW GET US A TENT," IS IT!?
UM...
WHAT'S THIS, IT'S THE BOY WHO CAME HERE WITH SHIRO-GANE.

THAT'S RIGHT.
EVERY-ONE... CAME HERE...?
HOW DID YOU...?
HUH ...?
HONESTLY! ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR TROUPE HAVE BEEN HERE BABBLING ON ABOUT TENTS SINCE THE CRACK OF DAWN!

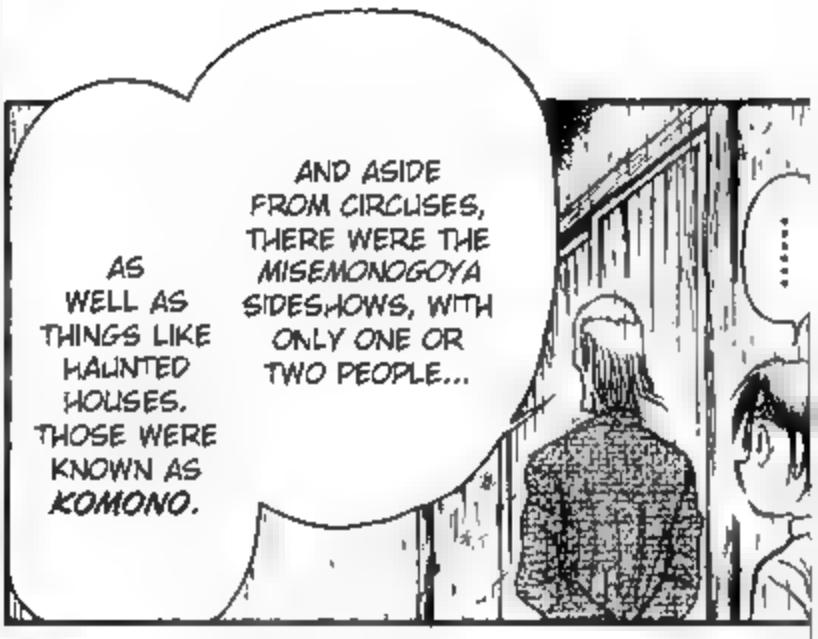
I REFUSE.
OH, DON'T SAY THAT!
IF IT GOES WELL, WE'LL THROW IN A LOVELY LADY AS PART OF THE RENTAL FEE!
PLEASE HELP US!
IF YOU PLEASE, OLD MAN ...
WON'T YOU GIVE US ONE OF YOUR SMALLER TENTS?
Y'OLD MISER!
AND WHY NOT!? MISER!
I SAID I REFUSE!
Tent
Tent
IF YOU'LL... L-L-LEND US A TENT ...
UM... THAT IS... YOU KNOW...
Tent

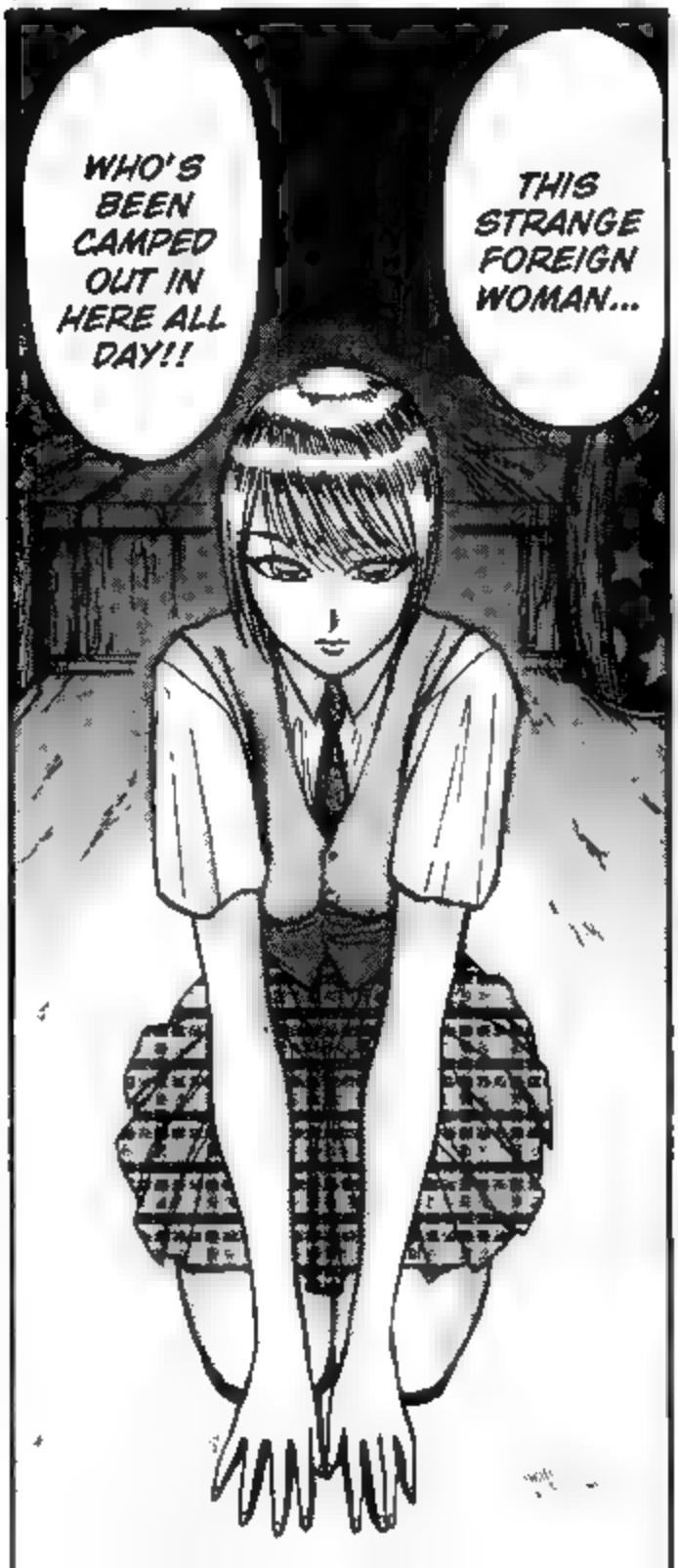
HEY, OLD-TIMER.
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE ANY LONGER, FIND A WAY TO GET US A TENT
Um. Um. I can teach your pet whatever tricks you'd like. whether it's a dog or a cat So. Um.um
.....
.....

IT DIDN'T DO ANY GOOD, HUH...
BUT ...
THAT'S ...
THEY DIDN'T GIVE UP AFTER ALL!
EVERY-ONE...

I... REALLY WANTED TO SEE ...
THE NAKA-MACHI CIRCUS PUT ON A REAL PERFORMANCE ...
YOU WANT TO SEE THEIR CIRCUS? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
WHAT IS IT, RYOUKO?
YOU KNOW, GRANDPA ...
.....
SMALL CIRCUSES WITH 20-30 MEMBERS WERE CALLED CHUUNI...THERE WERE A LOT OF THOSE IN THE OLD DAYS.
MORE THAN 100 TROUPE MEMBERS, WITH LUGGAGE EXCEEDING 11 TONS AND 30 TRUCKS...A LARGE FAMILY LIKE THAT WAS CALLED OONI.
UM ...
HUH?
YOUNG MAN...ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A CERTAIN WAY TO REFER TO BIG AND SMALL CIRCUSES.

AND ...
A SMALL TENT THAT FITS LESS THAN 100 PEOPLE... THAT'S WHAT I HAVE.


AS WELL AS THINGS LIKE HAUNTED HOUSES. THOSE WERE KNOWN AS *KOMONO*.
AND ASIDE FROM CIRCUSES, THERE WERE THE *MISEMONOGOYA* SIDESHOWS, WITH ONLY ONE OR TWO PEOPLE...
.....

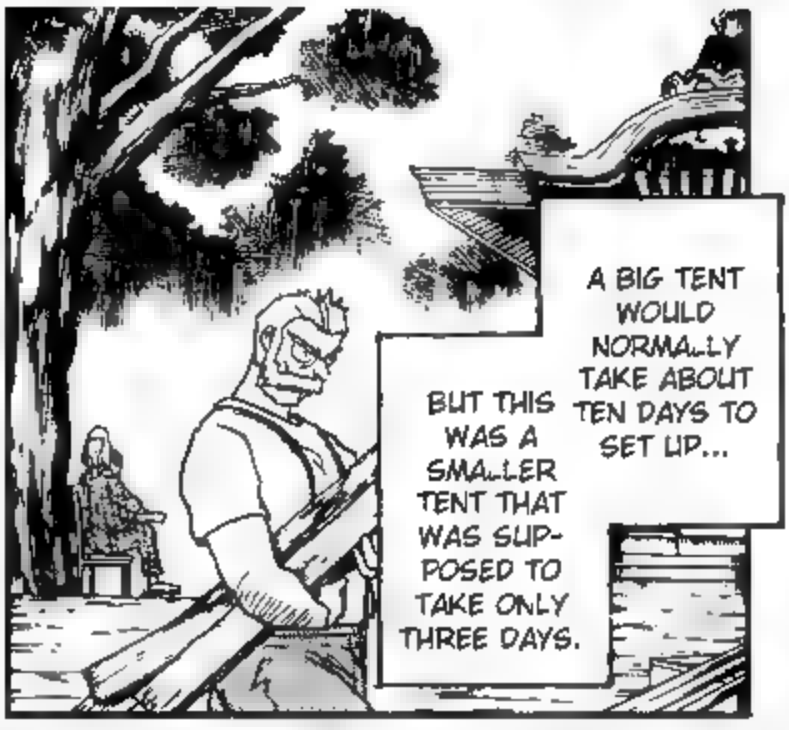

WHO'S BEEN CAMPED OUT IN HERE ALL DAY!!
THIS STRANGE FOREIGN WOMAN...

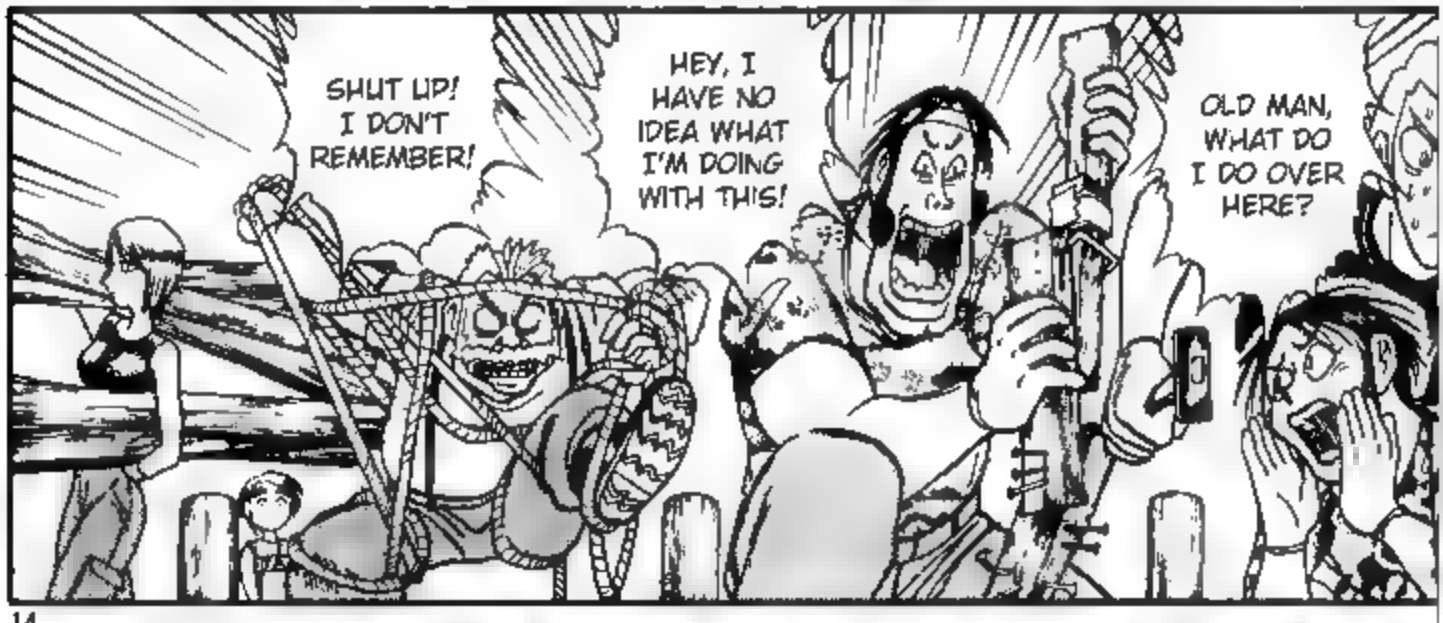
YOU MEAN, YOU'LL ...
THEN ...

TCH, THERE'S NO HELPING IT IF THESE FOOLS ARE GOING TO BE COMING EVERY DAY.
GRAND-PA...!

ES-PECIALLY ...
ガリ

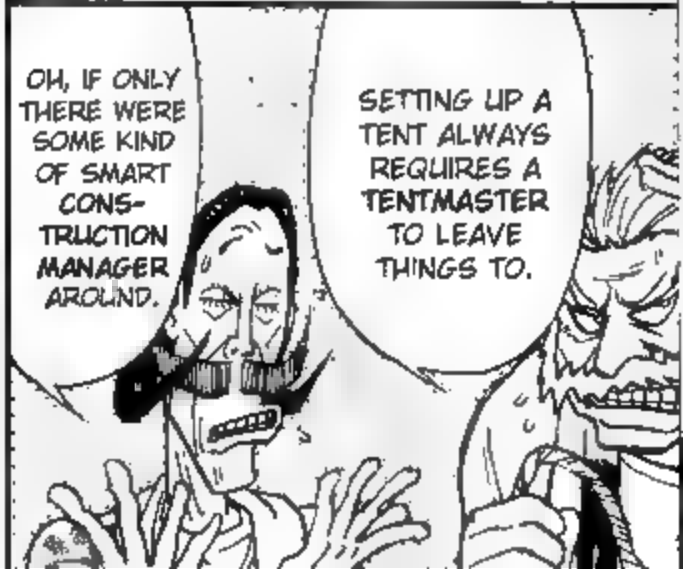
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY... BUT IF IT'S AT ALL POSSIBLE ...
IT SEEMS SHE WON'T MOVE UNTIL I GIVE YOU A TENT.
SHE'S BEEN HERE SINCE LAST NIGHT! IT'S AWFUL!
SHI-RO-GANE ...
SHI ...
HOW-EVER! YOU'LL GET NO MORE HELP FROM ME!!
YEAH, YEAH... YOU'VE GIVEN ME A HARD TIME, YOU UN-PLEASANT WOMAN ...
TCH ...
I GET IT, I GET IT.
AFTER THAT, WE GOT TO WORK SETTING UP THE TENT.


A BIG TENT WOULD NORMALLY TAKE ABOUT TEN DAYS TO SET UP...
BUT THIS WAS A SMALLER TENT THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE ONLY THREE DAYS.

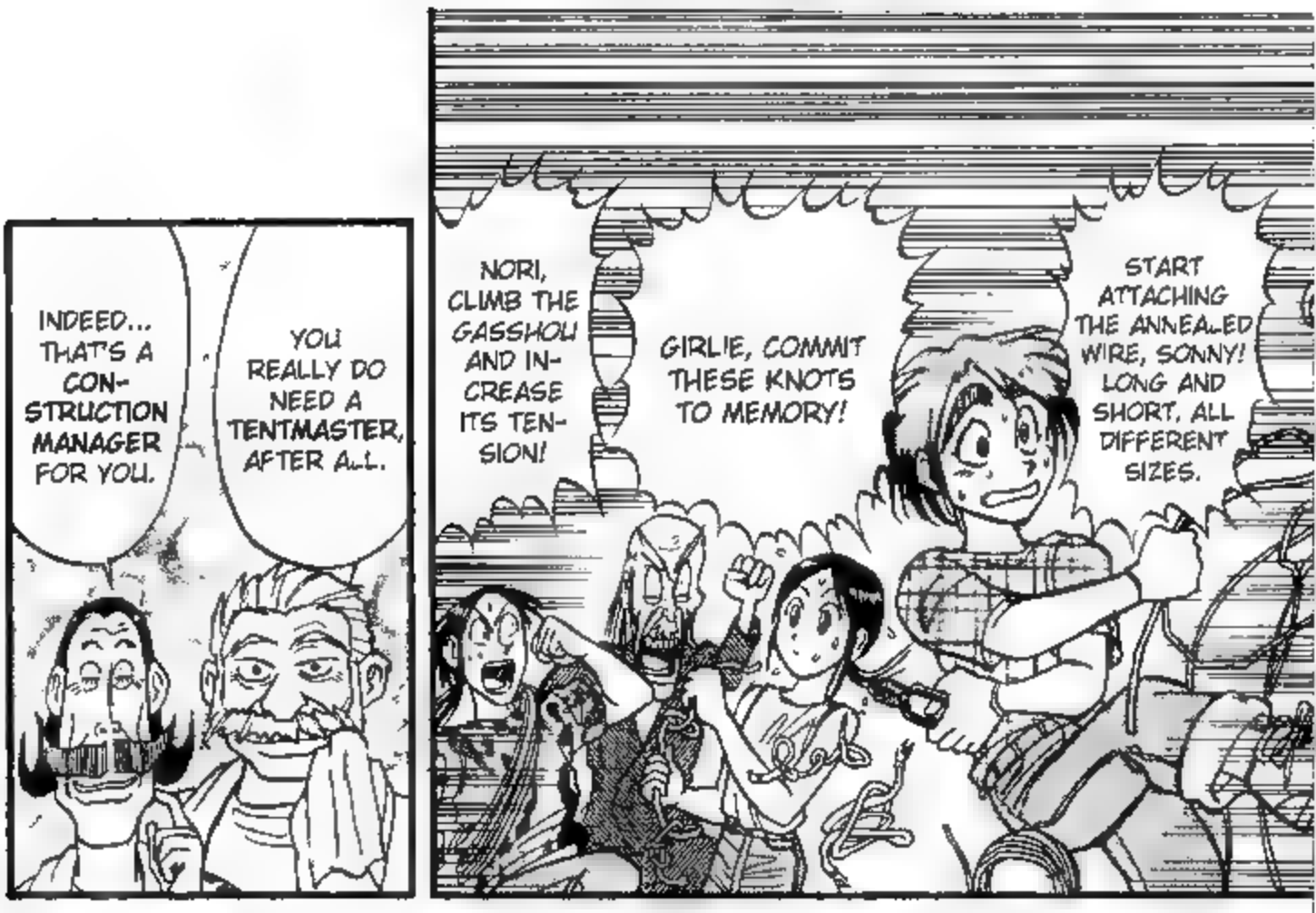

SHUT UP! I DON'T REMEMBER!
HEY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M DOING WITH THIS!
OLD MAN, WHAT DO I DO OVER HERE?

BUT OPENING DAY IS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW ...

TENTMASTER IS THE NAME FOR THE PERSON WHO DIRECTS THE WORKERS AS THEY SET UP THE TENTS.
SOMEONE WHO HAS THE LAYOUT IN THE R HEAD.
No helping it


OH, IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME KIND OF SMART CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AROUND.
SETTING UP A TENT ALWAYS REQUIRES A TENTMASTER TO LEAVE THINGS TO.

ISN'T ANY KIND FINE?
IS THIS WIRE THE KIND WE NEED?
HMPH.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING OVER HERE FOR?
RIGHT.
LIESE, GO BUY SOME 12-GAUGE ANNEALED WIRE.
THE 12-GAUGE ANNEALED WIRE IS A RIGID FELLOW... IT WON'T BREAK ON YOU.
ahem
HUH?
12-GAUGE ANNEALED WIRE.
ahem
ゴホン
AH!
WE NEED MORE LOGS, THEN!
A-HEM, DON'T USE JUST ONE VERTICAL SHAFT, YOU IDIOTS. IT WON'T GIVE YOU ENOUGH REINFORCE-MENT.
ゴホン
AH!
AH!
MORONS, IF YOU PUT THE SIDE COLUMN THERE IT'LL BE USELESS!


INDEED... THAT'S A CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR YOU.
YOU REALLY DO NEED A TENTMASTER, AFTER ALL.
NORI, CLIMB THE GASSHOU AND INCREASE ITS TENSION!
GIRLIE, COMMIT THESE KNOTS TO MEMORY!
START ATTACHING THE ANNEALED WIRE, SONNY! LONG AND SHORT, ALL DIFFERENT SIZES.

IS TO BE BACK IN THE CIRCUS!

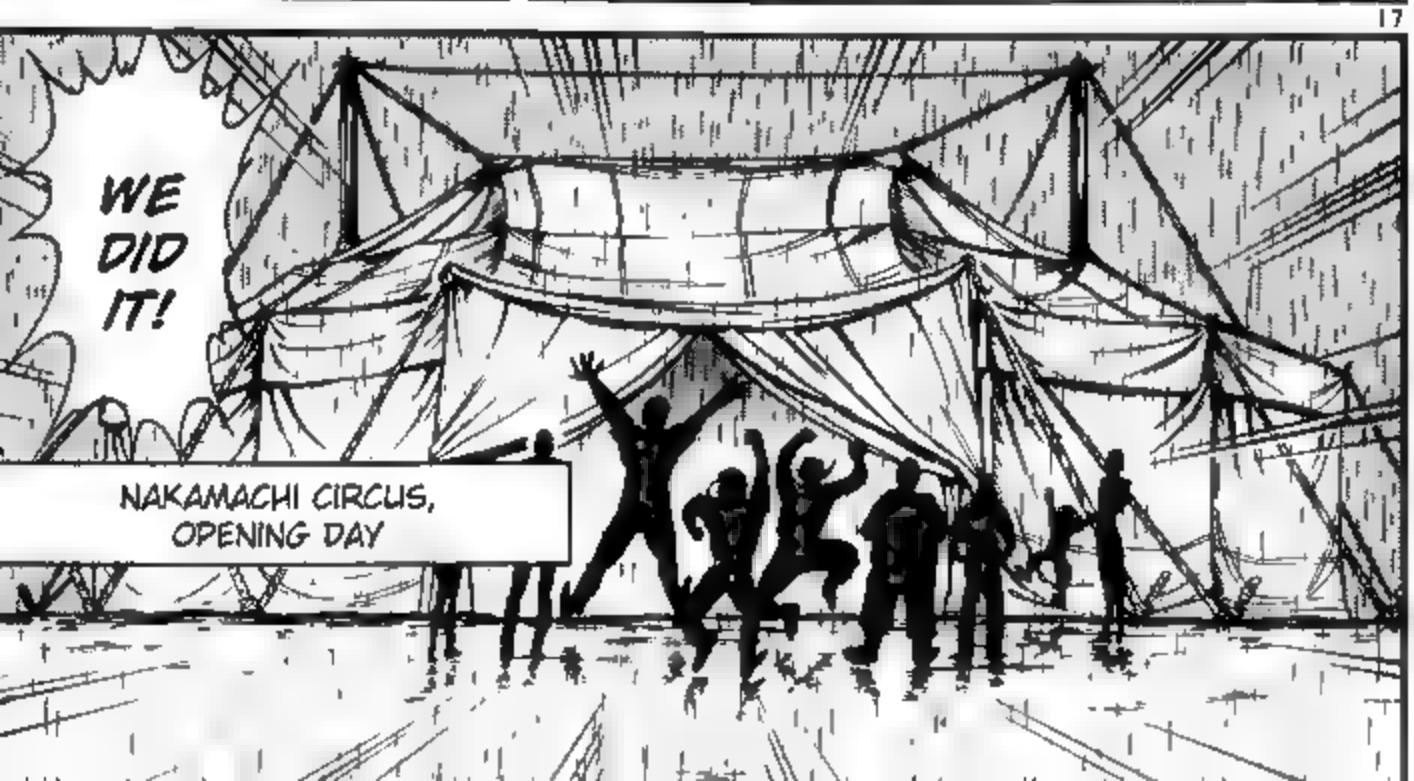
GRAND-PAAA!

WHAT YOU REALLY WANT, GRAND-PA...
WHAT IS IT, RYOUKO !?

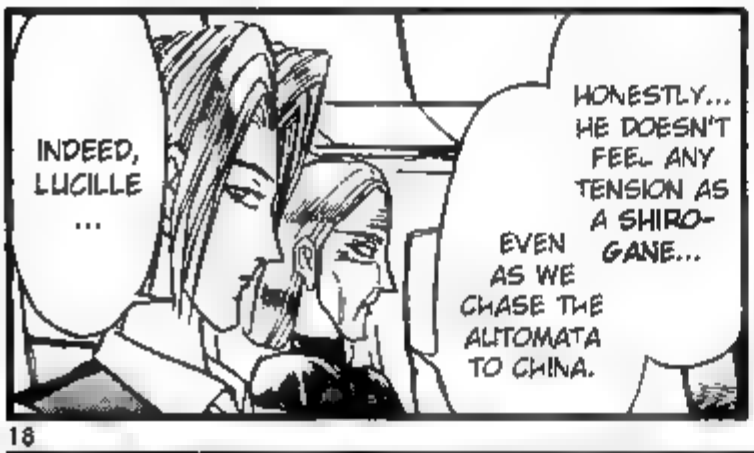
IMBE-CILES, THAT GOES OVER THIS WAY!
GRAMPS, IS THIS OKAY HERE?
♪
.....
HMPH.

AHAHAHAHA

HA HA HA!
YOU CAN'T HOLD OUT, GRANDPA.
U-FU-FU ...


WE DID IT!
NAKAMACHI CIRCUS, OPENING DAY

RBA
THE SAME DAY
OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN


INDEED, LUCILLE ...
HONESTLY... HE DOESN'T FEEL ANY TENSION AS A SHIROGANE...
EVEN AS WE CHASE THE ALTOMATA TO CHINA.

NARUMI'S ASLEEP ?

EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE QUITE A BIG JOB THIS TIME.

translation by furuhuraba tumblr com

pg 3 *Saltimbanchi*—Italian word for wandering acrobats

pp 11-12 *Ooni*, *chuuni*, and *komono* are terms specific to Japanese circus history, so they have no real English equivalents They are written with kanji roughly meaning "big load" "medium load", and "small thing" respectively

pg 12 *Misemono(-goya)* were exhibitions something like Western sideshows that flourished during the Edo period Haunted houses are still popular attractions in Japan.

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

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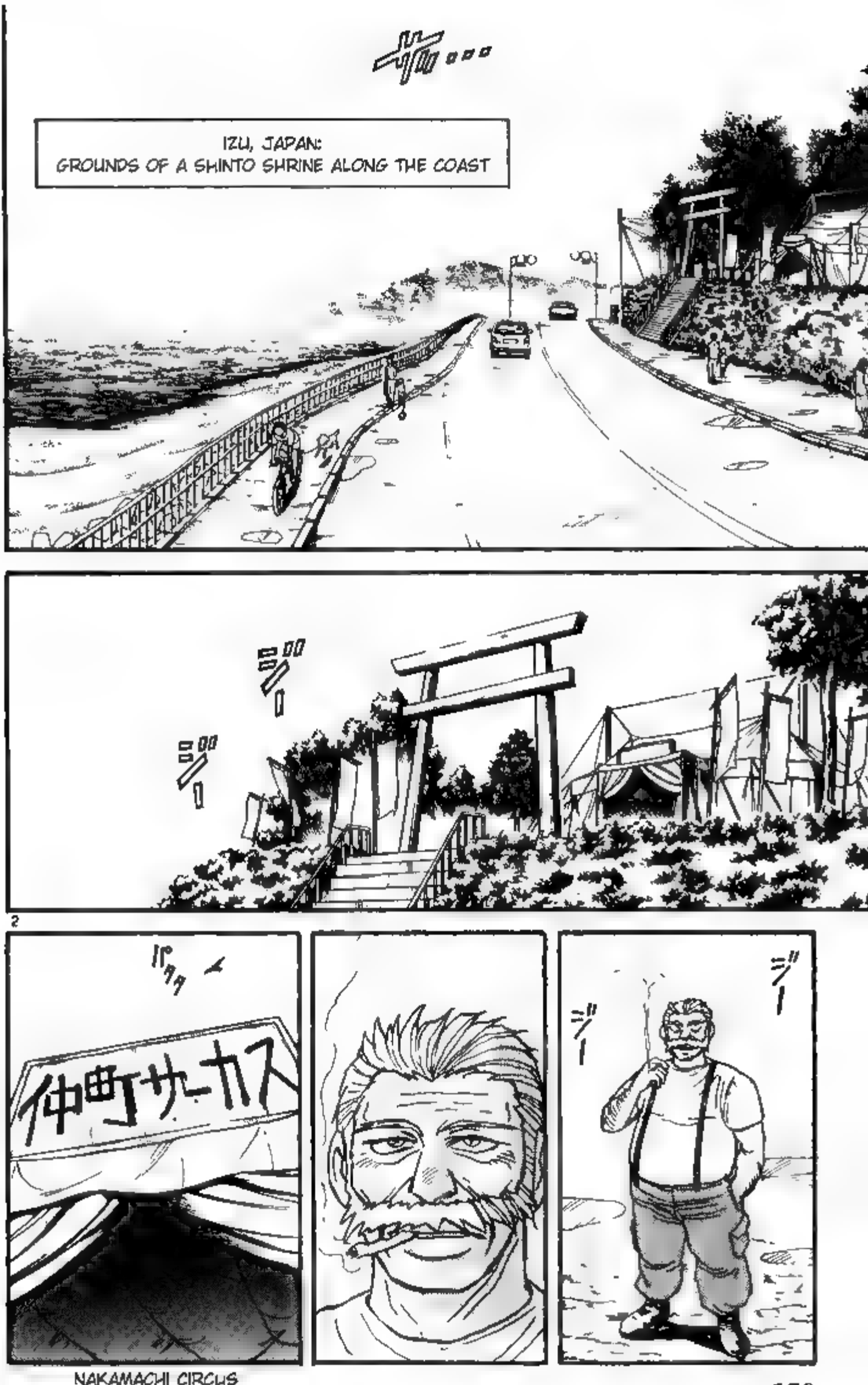
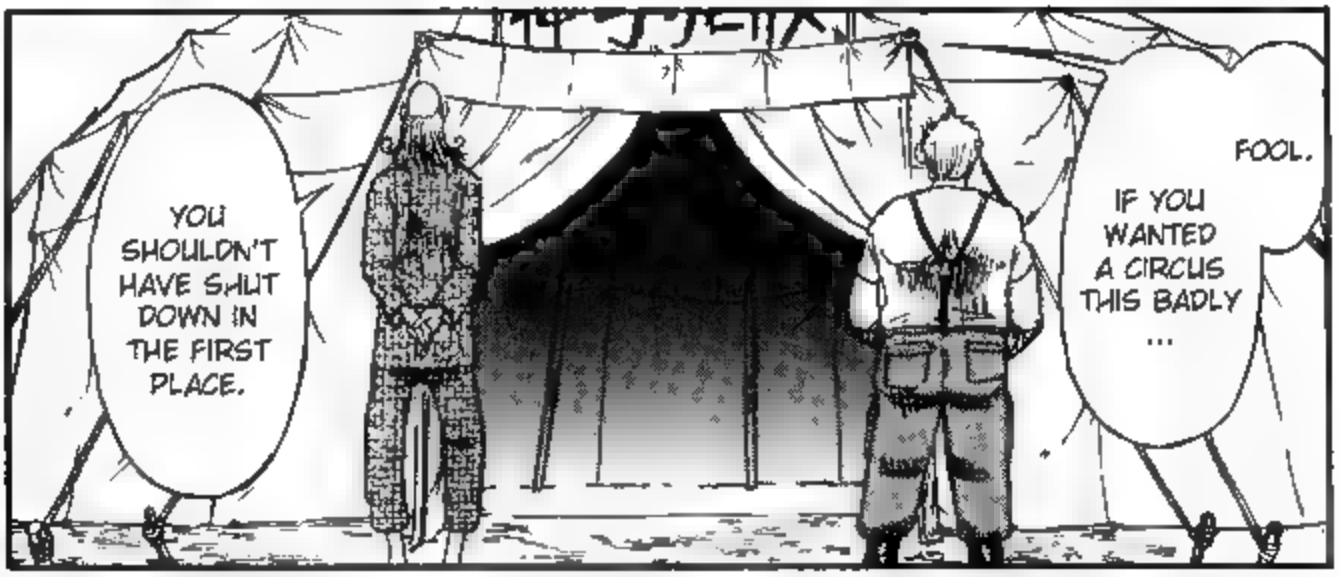
Act#3 PARALLEL-ONE



NAKAMACHI CIRCUS

I'M TRULY SORRY ...
FOR EVERY-THING ...

UBU-KATA ...?
THE TENT'S BEEN PUT UP, BUT... WILL YOU BE ABLE TO PULL OFF YOUR ACTS?


YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SHUT DOWN IN THE FIRST PLACE.
FOOL. IF YOU WANTED A CIRCUS THIS BADLY ...

WHAT, YOU TWO ARE GETTING ALL PUMPED UP OVER THIS TINY LITTLE TENT? HOW LAME.
I could never be happy with this after being in a Big circus

ガヤ ガヤ

3

I'M OFF NOW TO ASK THE COMMUNITY CENTER IF THEY'LL LEND US SOME OF THEIR FLOOR CUSHIONS.
IS THE AUDIENCE GONNA BE SITTING RIGHT ON TOP OF THESE PLASTIC SHEETS?

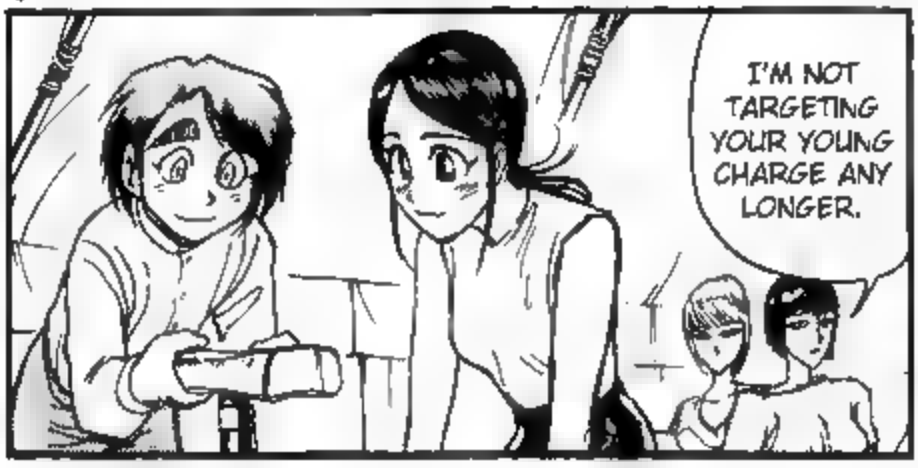
YES.
LET'S MOVE THIS A BIT.
SO DREAD-FULLY SORRY! I WON'T BE MEAN LIKE THAT ANY-MORE!
AH!
GET OUT IF YOU'RE GONNA BE LIKE THAT! DON'T PERFORM!
YOU REALLY ARE ONE ROTTEN GUY!
Who are you now, Liese?

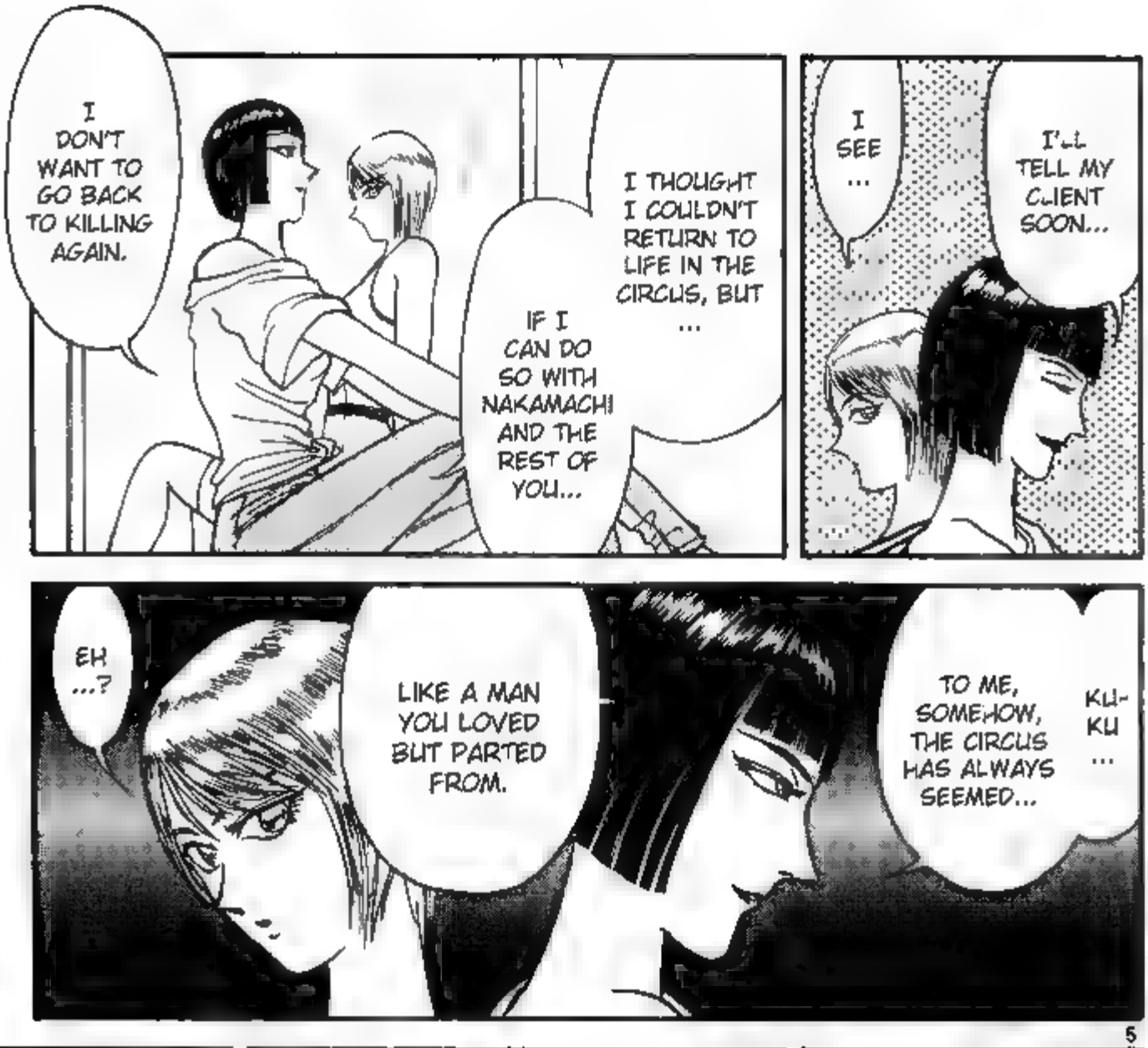
NOT REALLY ...
PHEW ...
YOU LOOKING AT SOME-THING, SHIRO-GANE?

HEAVE-HO.

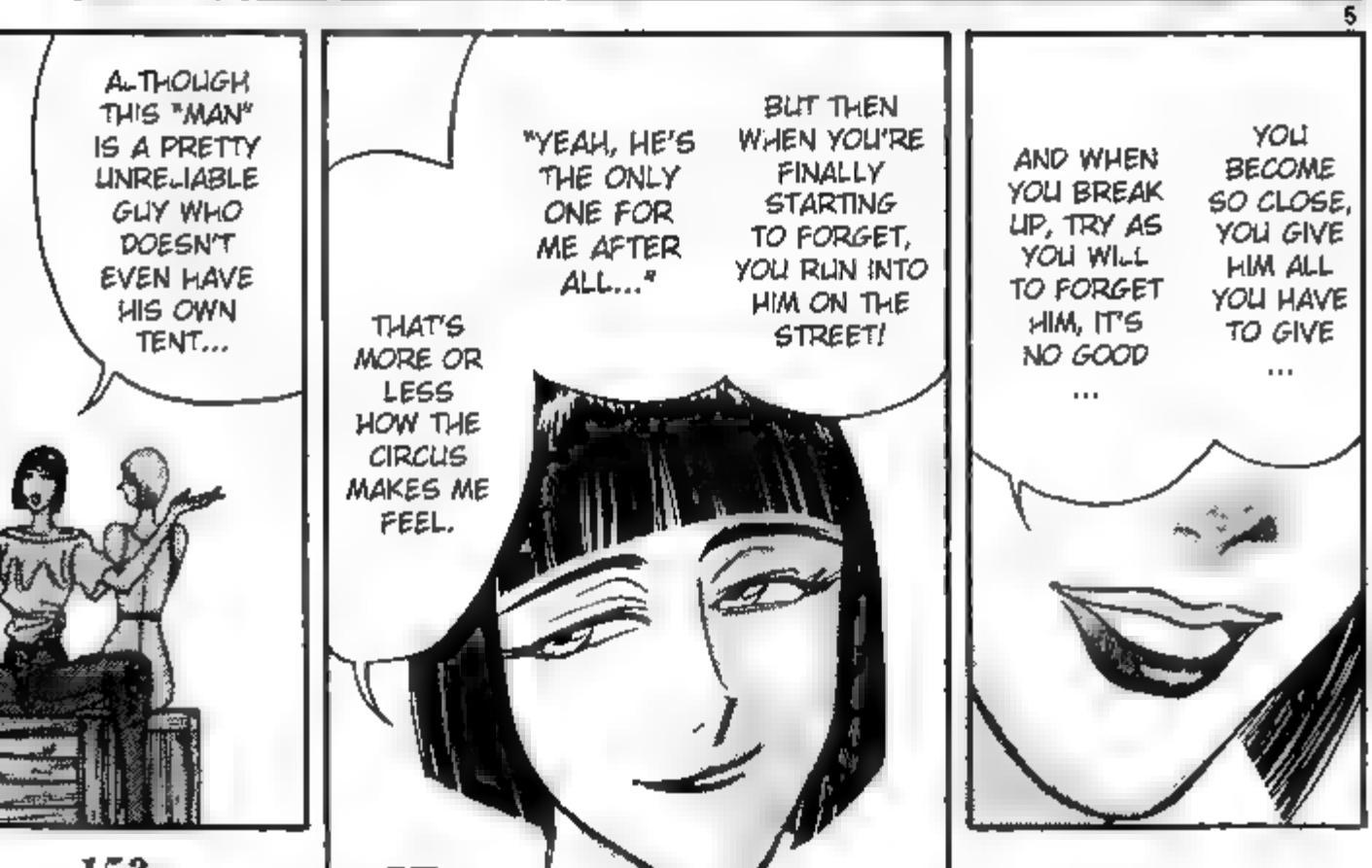
OH, NO-O-O! I'D HATE TO FACE A MONSTER OPPONENT LIKE YOU AGAIN!
.....

YOU SEEM TO HAVE GIVEN UP ON YOUR JOB AS AN ASSASSIN.
YES, WELL... SINCE IT SEEMS YOU WON'T ALLOW ME TO PURSUE THAT CAREER...


I'M NOT TARGETING YOUR YOUNG CHARGE ANY LONGER.


I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO KILLING AGAIN.
I THOUGHT I COULDN'T RETURN TO LIFE IN THE CIRCUS, BUT ...
IF I CAN DO SO WITH NAKAMACHI AND THE REST OF YOU...
I SEE ...
I'LL TELL MY CLIENT SOON...
EH ...?
LIKE A MAN YOU LOVED BUT PARTED FROM.
TO ME, SOMEHOW, THE CIRCUS HAS ALWAYS SEEMED...
KU-KU ...

5


ALTHOUGH THIS "MAN" IS A PRETTY UNRELIABLE GUY WHO DOESN'T EVEN HAVE HIS OWN TENT...
THAT'S MORE OR LESS HOW THE CIRCUS MAKES ME FEEL.
"YEAH, HE'S THE ONLY ONE FOR ME AFTER ALL..."
BUT THEN WHEN YOU'RE FINALLY STARTING TO FORGET, YOU RUN INTO HIM ON THE STREET!
AND WHEN YOU BREAK UP, TRY AS YOU WILL TO FORGET HIM, IT'S NO GOOD ...
YOU BECOME SO CLOSE, YOU GIVE HIM ALL YOU HAVE TO GIVE ...

COME ON NOW! YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL THE MEN MUST BE POSITIVELY SWARMING YOU!
EH?
SAY SHIRO GANE YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAVEN'T YOU?
IS THAT SO
YOU SEEM LIKE THE COOL TYPE, BUT SURELY THERE'S A CERTAIN MAN YOU'VE TREATED WARMLY AM I RIGHT?
I DIDN'T TREAT HIM WARMLY...
THERE IS NOT
!

I ONLY ATTACKED HIM...
トン
何でえ、ニラみやがって。
何!? 私のどこが!?
勝! こいつこそあやしいぜ!
I ONLY ...
COLDLY... TREATED HIM LIKE AN "THING"...

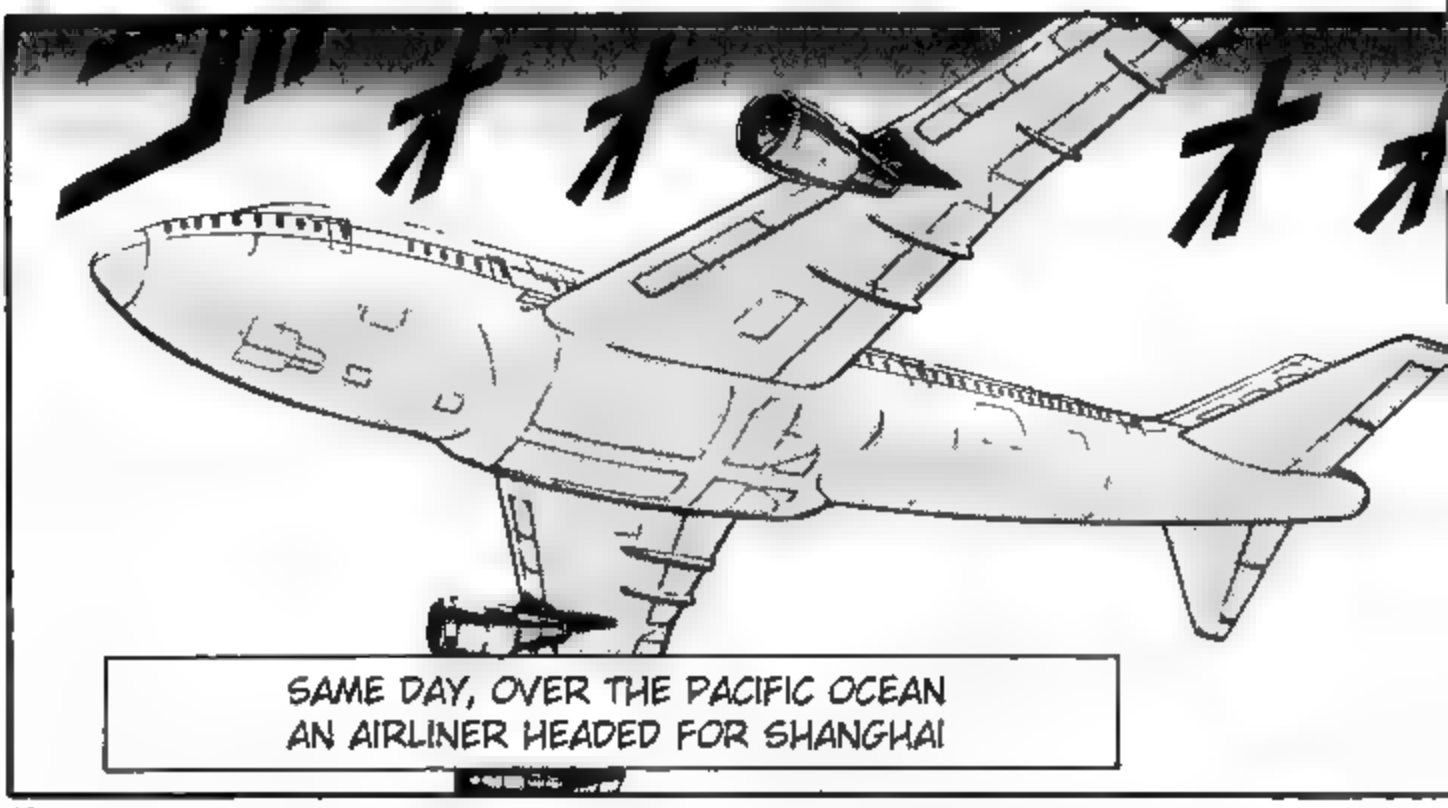
HE SCOLDED ME...
AND I TOLD HIM THE STORY OF MY LIFE...
THAT'S IT?
YES.
NOTHING ...BUT THAT...

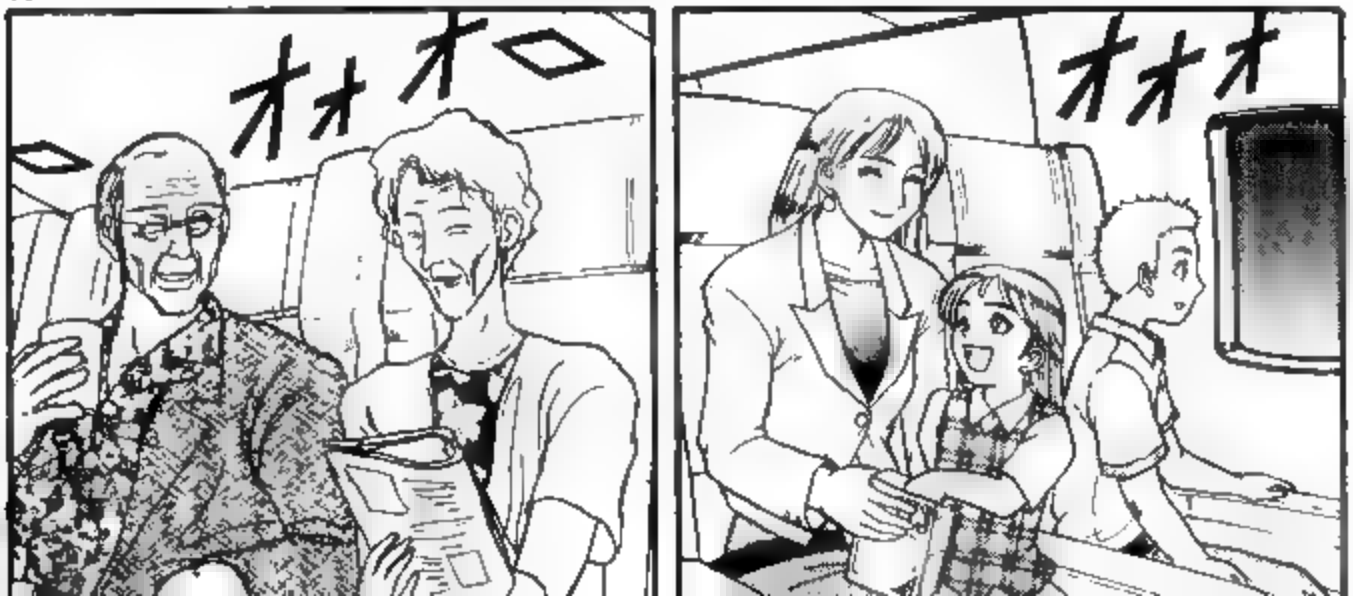
THERE IS NO MAN WHOM I TREATED KINDLY...
INSTEAD ...
THERE IS ONE MAN WHOM I TROUBLED TO AN IR-REPARABLE DEGREE...
ONE MAN TO WHOM...IF WE MET AGAIN... I WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGIZE SINCERELY...

KATOU...
NARUMI!

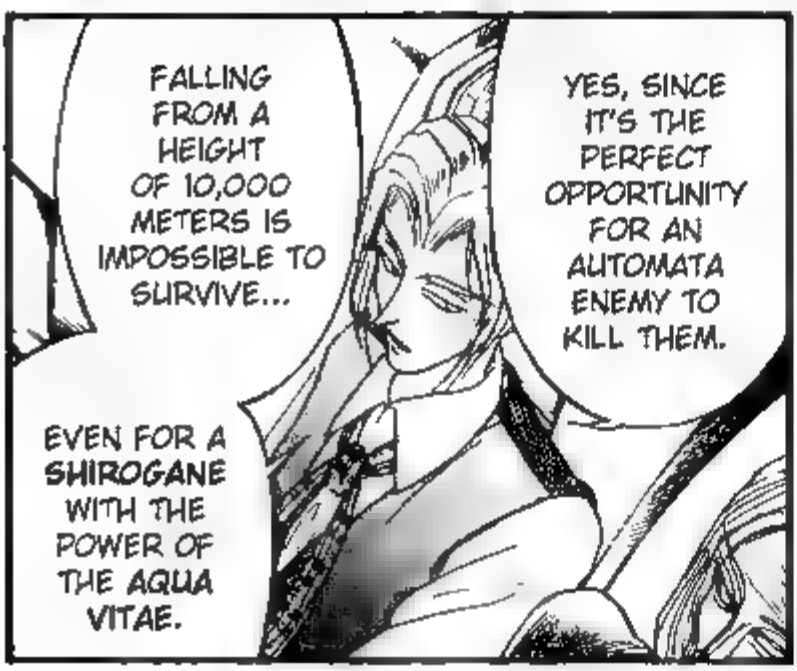
IT MEANS YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH HIM.
CRAZY ...?
HMPH ...
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE CRAZY ABOUT HIM, SHIRO-GANE.
EH ...?
9
THERE'S THE PROOF!
OH HO, THAT'S QUITE A FACE!
So Bush-ful!
I... I DON'T KNOW ...!
SO? WHERE IS LOVERBOY? FOR A WOMAN LIKE YOU, HE SHOULD COME FLYING FROM ANYONE'S SIDE.

HE'S DEAD ...
HE ISN'T ANY-WHERE ...
NAKAMACHI CIRCUS PARK
OPENING DAY


SAME DAY, OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN
AN AIRLINER HEADED FOR SHANGHAI



HE'S AWFULLY CAREFREE.
IT SEEMS SO, LUCILLE.
NARUMI IS STILL SLEEPING, GUY?


FALLING FROM A HEIGHT OF 10,000 METERS IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SURVIVE...
YES, SINCE IT'S THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR AN AUTOMATA ENEMY TO KILL THEM.
EVEN FOR A SHIROGANE WITH THE POWER OF THE AQUA VITAE.

IT'S ALWAYS MADE SHIROGANE TENSE.
SLEEPING WHILE IN THE AIR IS THE MOST DANGEROUS OF SITUATIONS.

オオオ
SORRY ...
AH ...
THREW THAT ...
MY SISTER ...

ALL THEY WOULD HAVE TO DO IS TAKE DOWN THE AIRPLANE.

YES ...

THANK YOU.

I DON'T FIND IT NECES-SARY OTHER-WISE.
GUESS YOU ONLY RUN OFF AT THE MOUTH WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO SWEET-TALK SOME WOMAN.
SO YOU'RE AWAKE, NARUMI.

YOU'RE AS UNFRIENDLY AS EVER, GUY. YOU SCARED THOSE KIDS.

EXCUSE ME, SIR... ARE YOU FEELING ILL?

ER ...

KEH...THAT'S WHAT I HATE ABOUT YOU.

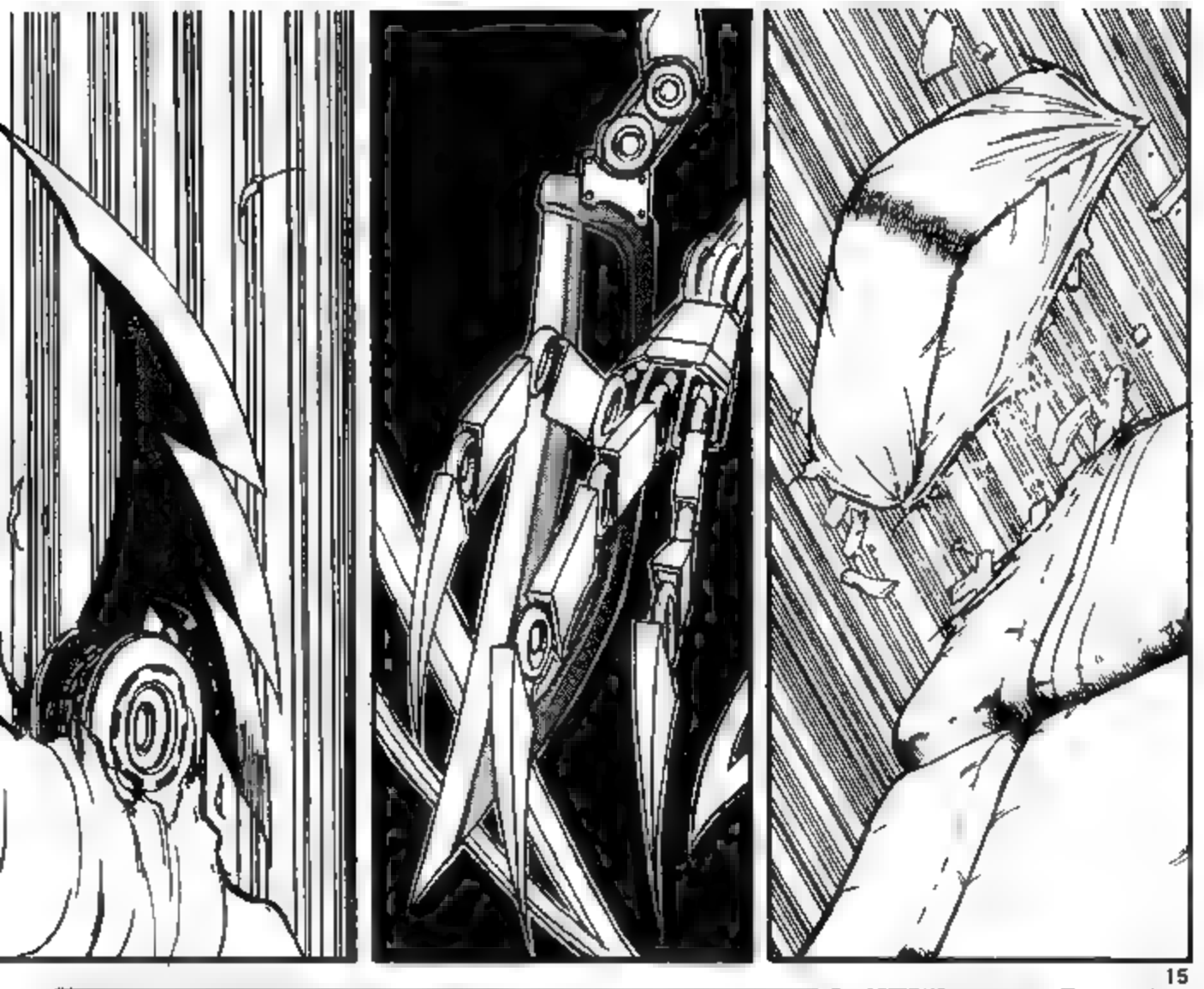
I FEEL ...
JUST GREAT ...
EEK ...!
OH, NO-O ...

?
TO HAP- PEN ...
ABOUT WHAT'S ABOUT ...
!

PHEW
...

KYAAA!
WAA!

YES
...
NAT-
URALLY
...



15

OH, DID YOU ACTUALLY NOTICE THAT, NARUMI?
TRY NOT TO DO ANYTHING TOO STUPID.
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, YOU TWO.

A GAME, YOU SAY?
THAT'S WELL-PUT...
SHIRO-GANE.
THAT'S RIGHT, THIS IS A GAME.
IF THIS PLANE CRASHES, IT'S A WIN FOR US AUTOMATA.
IF YOU MANAGE AN EMERGENCY LANDING, IT'S YOUR WIN... THOSE ARE THE RULES.

THIS GAME IS ONLY JUST START-ING.

NARUMI, WAIT!!
!
WHAT THE HELL?
DON'T FUCK WITH ME!
ドサ
ドサ
18

translation by funmuraba tumblr com

pg 4 Most of Liese's dialogue is written in katakana because she's not speaking Japanese quite as fluidly as a native speaker When Naota apologizes some of it is in katakana as well to show that he is speaking awkwardly Hiro's line is referring to this

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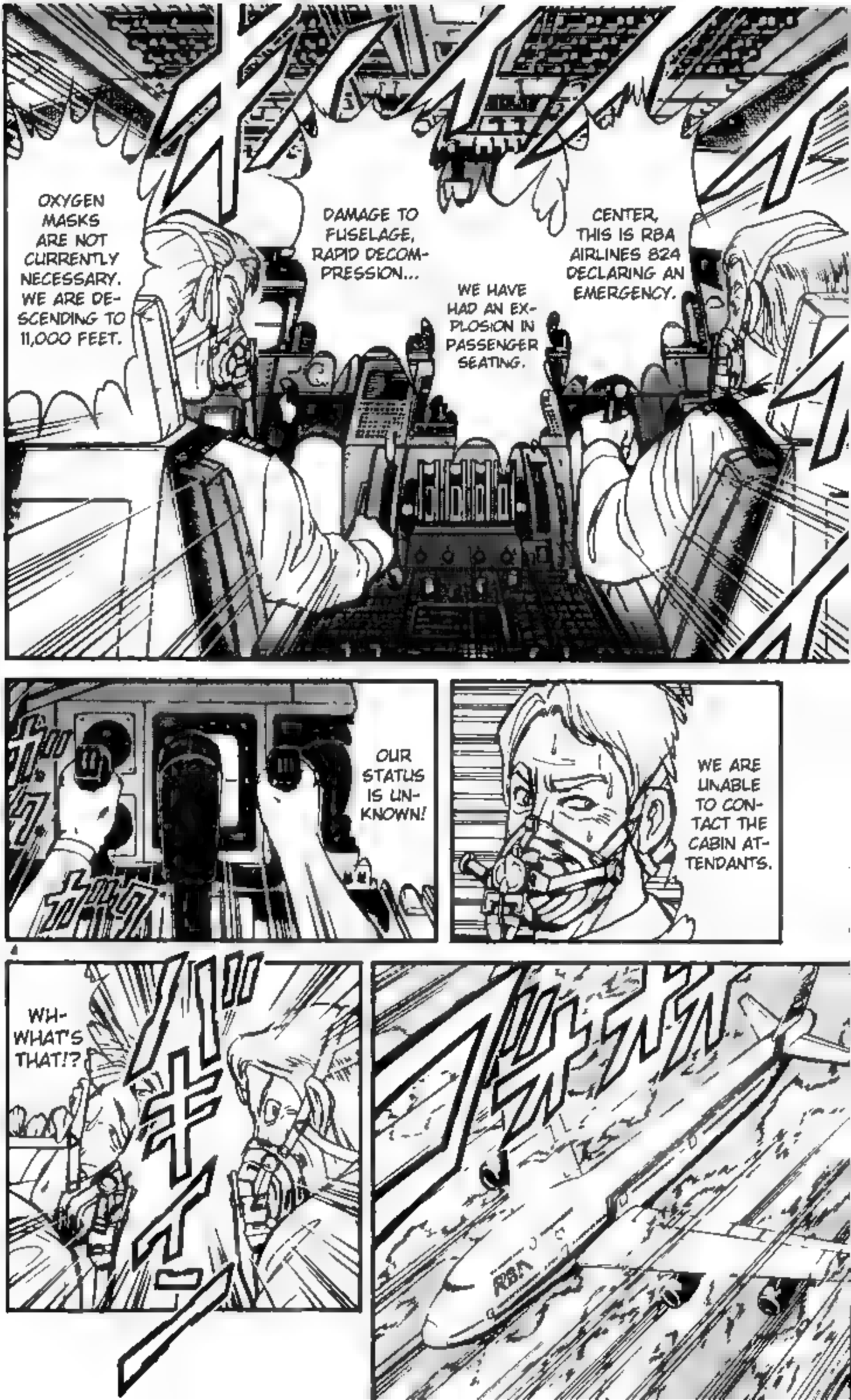
Act 4
PARALLEL-II

SHIT!
GYAAAAA
3
2
RBA


OXYGEN MASKS ARE NOT CURRENTLY NECESSARY. WE ARE DESCENDING TO 11,000 FEET.
DAMAGE TO FUSELAGE, RAPID DECOMPRESSION...
WE HAVE HAD AN EXPLOSION IN PASSENGER SEATING.
CENTER, THIS IS RBA AIRLINES 824 DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
OUR STATUS IS UNKNOWN!
WE ARE UNABLE TO CONTACT THE CABIN ATTENDANTS.
WH-WHAT'S THAT!?
RBA

I AM MAGDALEN.
THERE WILL BE A GAME PLAYED ON THIS AIRPLANE, BEGINNING NOW
ARE YOU A HIJACKER ?
I AM AN AUTO-MATON
WH-WHAT ARE YOUR DEMANDS ?
FOR ALL OF YOU...
TO DIE.

THAT!
!!!

SHIT! HE EXPLODED WHEN I STABBED HIM.
THESE AUTOMATA SELF-DESTRUCT IF THEY ARE CUT OR STRUCK.
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO STOP, NARUMI.

BECAUSE YOU THREE SHIROGANE GOT ON THIS PLANE, WE GOT THE URGE TO PLAY A GAME LIKE THIS...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU GOT ON THIS PLANE.
THAT WAS OVERDOING IT A BIT, NARUMI.
LET'S PLAY.
SO ...

... DAMN IT.
CONTROL YOURSELF, NARUMI! ANOTHER EXPLOSION WILL TAKE THE PLANE DOWN.
YOU BAS-TARDS ...

THINGS SEEM TO HAVE STABI-LIZED.
IT APPEARS WE'VE ARRIVED AT 11,000 FEET.

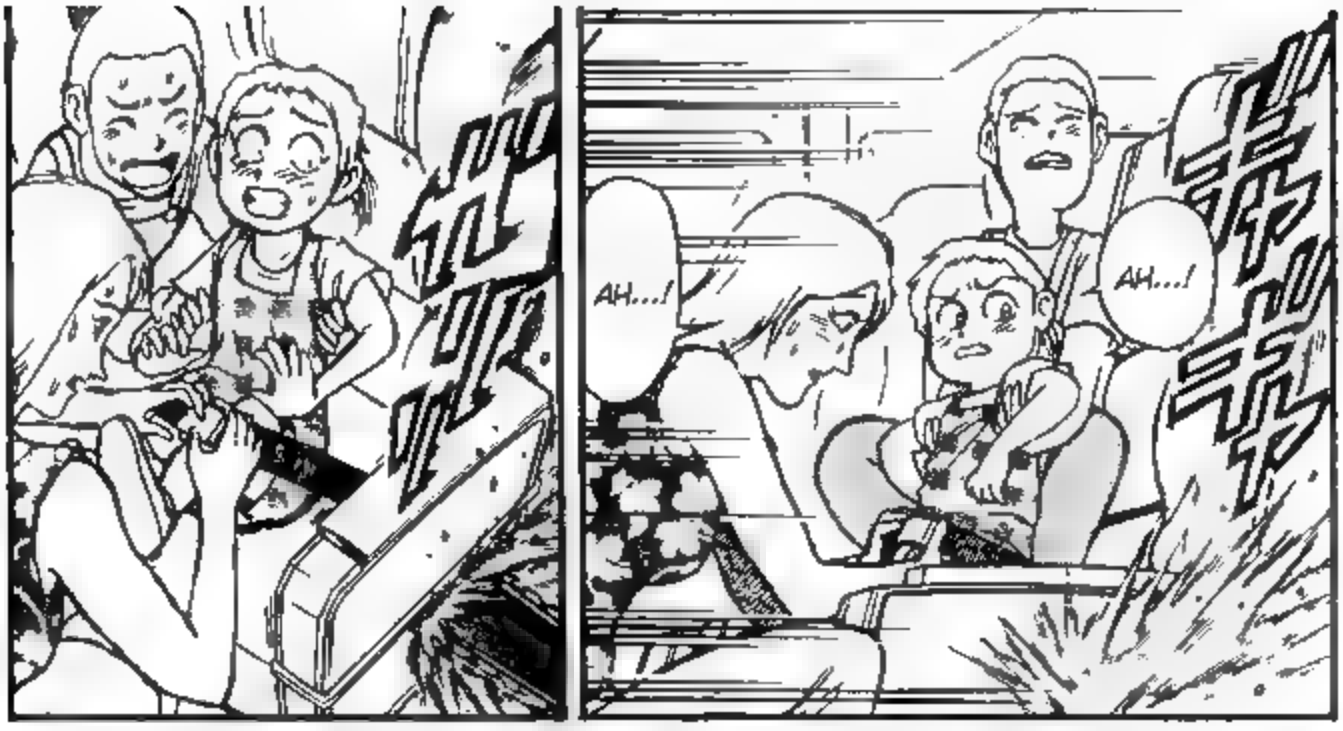
HOW ARE WE TO PLAY THIS GAME?

8

NOW, LET US EXPLAIN HOW THE GAME WORKS.

THEY'RE MONSTERS ...
AH... AH...
HELP US...

HIIII!


AH...!
AH...!

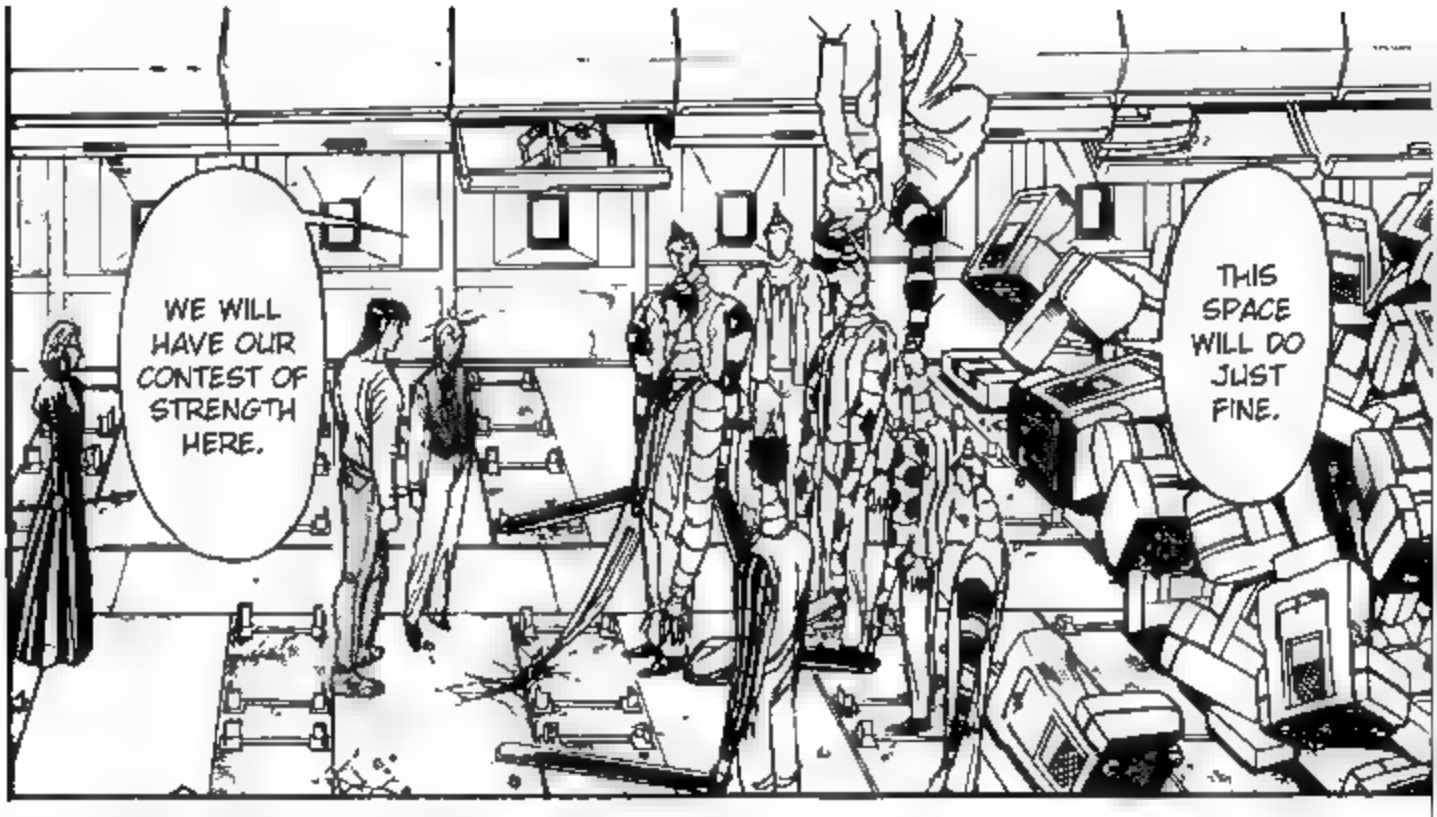
FUCK OFF!

WE WILL RETURN TO THE OTHER PASSENGERS.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE RULES NOW...? ANY ATTACK YOU SHIROGANE MAKE AGAINST US...

GYAH!

WAIT, NARUMI!
TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT YOUR RASH ACTIONS HAVE ALREADY CAUSED!
WHY ...
YOU ...!
SO WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE, THEN? JUST LET THOSE KIDS DIE!?
SO ...

HE REALLY IS... TOTALLY COLD-BLOODED ...
YOU BAS-TARD ...
GUY ...
THEN YES.
IF IT WAS UNAVOID-ABLE...


WE WILL HAVE OUR CONTEST OF STRENGTH HERE.
THIS SPACE WILL DO JUST FINE.

AND OLYMPIA'S LOVER, WHO ONCE BURIED 200 AUTOMATA IN A SINGLE BATTLE...I AM NOT SPEAKING OF YOU.
LUCILLE, OLDEST OF THE SHIRO-GANE ...

WORD IS SPREADING OF YOU AMONG US AUTOMATA.

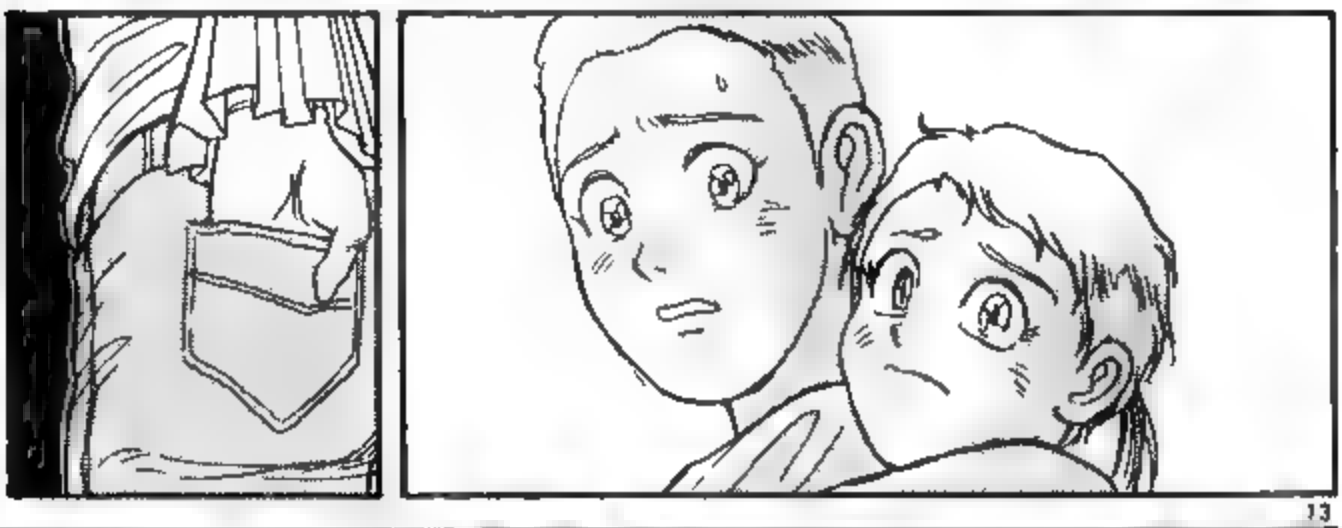
IF YOU DEFEAT US BARE-HANDED, THIS PLANE WILL BE ABLE TO LAND SAFELY IN SHANGHAI.

IT WILL BE DONE HERE.
WE HAVE AMONG US NINE OF OUR COMRADES WHO WISH TO BATTLE YOU.

DON'T WORRY. WE ARE MADE SO THAT WE WILL NOT EXPLODE IF YOU DEFEAT US WITH YOUR BARE HANDS.

I SPEAK OF THE NEWCOMER SHIROGANE WHO DE-STROYS AUTOMATA WITH HIS BARE HANDS.

YEAH ...
IT SEEMS WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.
HMPH ...
LU-CILLE?



LUCILLE, GET THE PASSENGERS TO A SAFE PLACE.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT. WE WANT YOU TO BE ABLE TO FIGHT WITHOUT HOLDING BACK.
.....

I'M GONNA SCATTER ALL YOU BASTARDS ACROSS THE SKY.
OKAY, THEN ...

AS FOR YOU, GUY, REMOVE THE THREADS CONNECTING YOU TO OLYMPIA.
YES ...
AND, LUCILLE, DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT DOING ANYTHING UNNECESSARY.
UNDERSTOOD.

AH YES. ...
STEWARDESS.
COME THIS WAY, NOW.

I DON'T NEED YOU TO DRAW ME A PICTURE, GUY.
NARUMI, THE AUTOMATA ARE CAPABLE OF KILLING THEMSELVES AT ANY TIME WHILE PLAYING THIS "GAME".
THIS MAY JUST BE A WAY TO WASTE OUR TIME. BE CAREFUL.

JUST WAIT QUIETLY TO FIND OUT HOW YOUR REPRESENTATIVE DOES IN OUR GAME.
HEY, TELL THAT TO THE OTHER HUMANS TOO.

HAHAHAHA!
WELL, THAT'S THE ONLY THING THEY CAN DO ANYWAY!

WHAT !?
WE HAVE A USE FOR THOSE CHILDREN.
YOU, WAIT A MINUTE.
THESE CHILDREN WILL BE OUR SCOREBOARD FOR THIS GAME.
きゃあ
あぁ
キャ
キャ
キャ
GAH!
MA-MA!
MOVE!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?

WE'LL BREAK THEIR FINGERS.
ONE BY ONE ...
IF OUR ATTACKS AGAINST YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL ...

HAHAHA!
AHAHAHAHA!
YOU ...
YOU BAS-TARDS ...

YOU FUCKING ASS-HOLE!

THAT'S AN INTERESTING IDEA. SO THE AUTOMATA ALSO HAVE THE ARISTOCRATIC APPRECIATION FOR DECADENCE AND CRUELTY.
GUY !!

SO I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE PAIN OF OTHERS.
MY APOLOGIES. THANKS TO THE AQUA VITAE, I DO NOT FEEL PAIN.

RIGHT NOW, GUY, I HATE YOU MORE THAN ANY OF THOSE DOLLS. THAT IS HOW PAINFUL YOU ARE TO BE AROUND.

I DIDN'T SUGGEST ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
BUT, IF FINGERS ARE GOING TO BE BROKEN, THEY MIGHT AS WELL BE MORE VALUABLE ONES...
IT CERTAINLY FEELS UNPLEASANT TO BE PRAISED BY OLYMPIA'S LOVER...
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO STOP.
WHAT'S THAT?

17

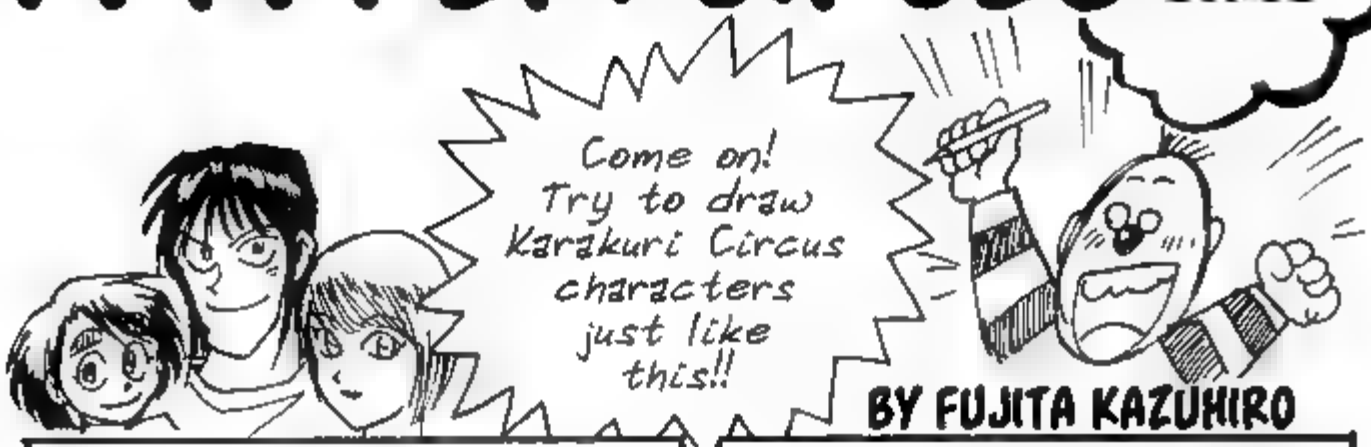
THESE FINGERS, BY MANIPULATING OLYMPIA, HAVE BROKEN YOUR COMRADES.
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO MISS YOUR CHANCE TO TEAR THEM OFF?
THESE FINGERS ARE BEAUTIFUL, ARE THEY NOT?

〈掲載・週刊少年サンデー平成12年6号より平成12年14号まで〉

HERE THEY ARE AT LAST!

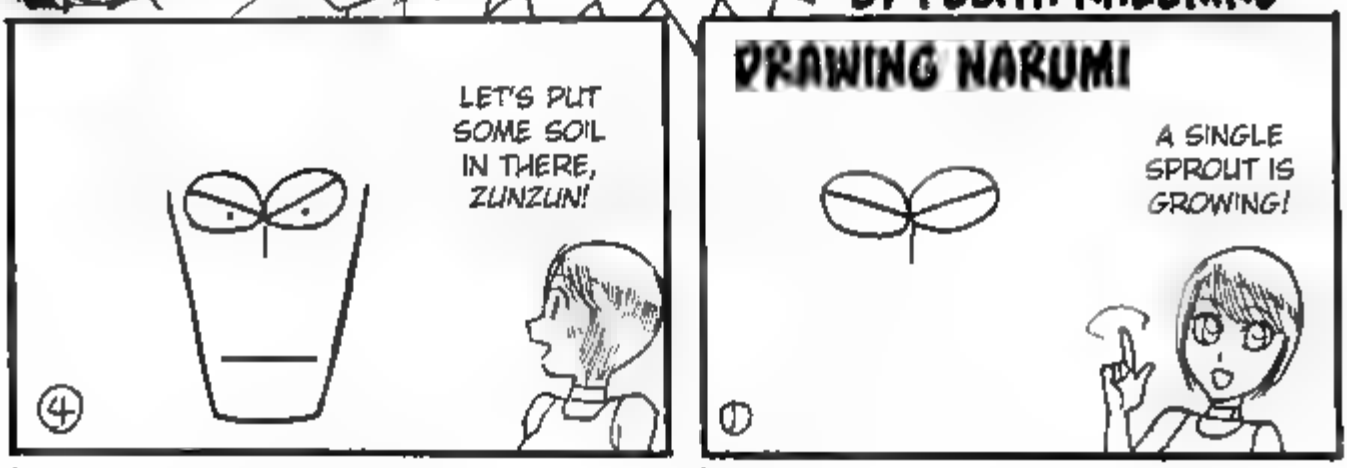
KARAKURI CIRCUS

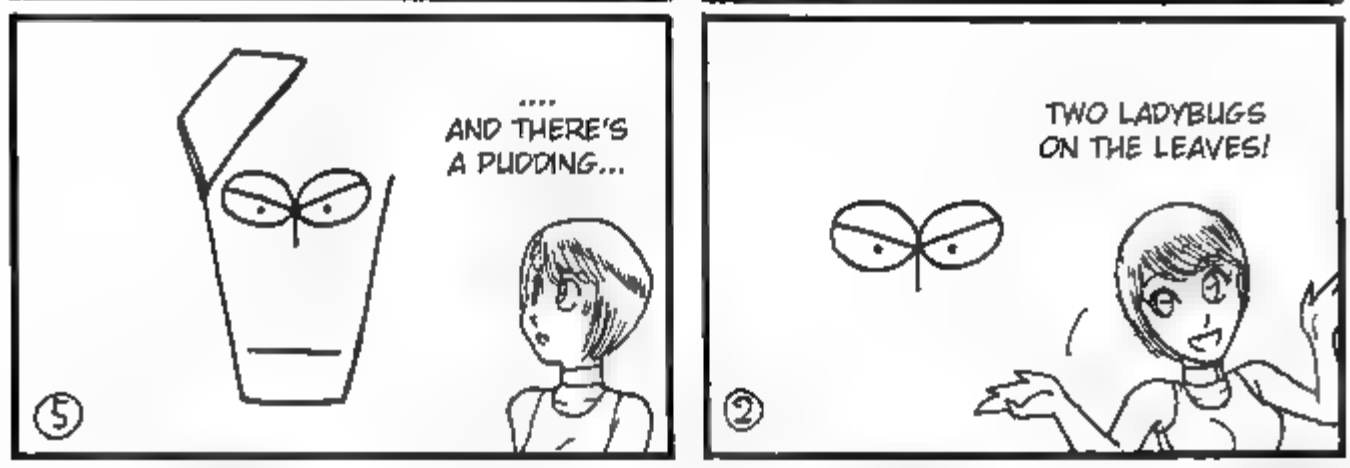
DRAWING SONGS

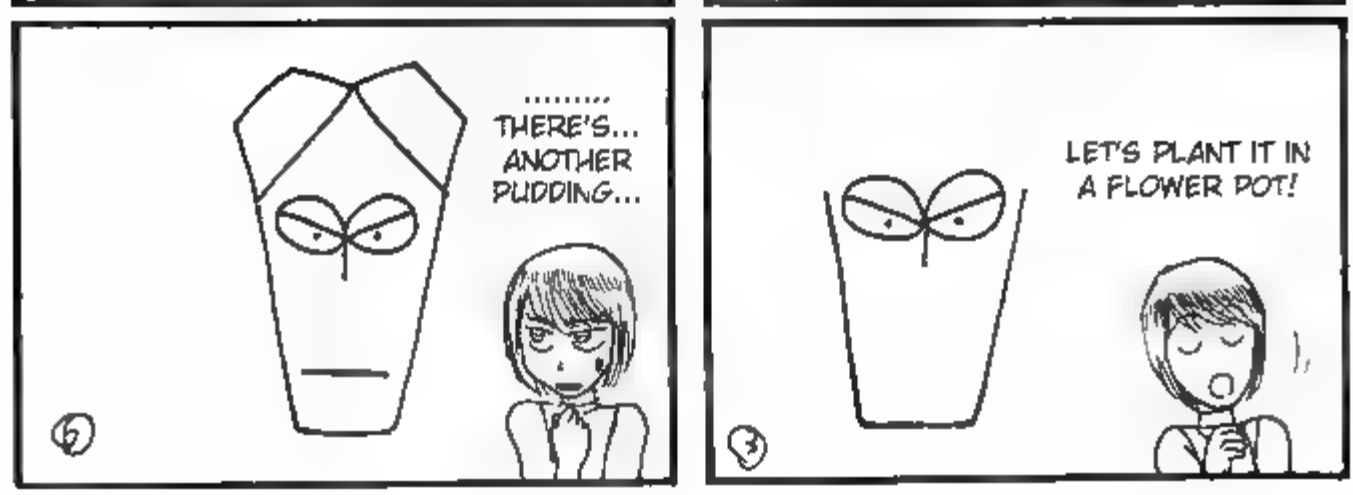


BY FUJITA KAZUHIRO

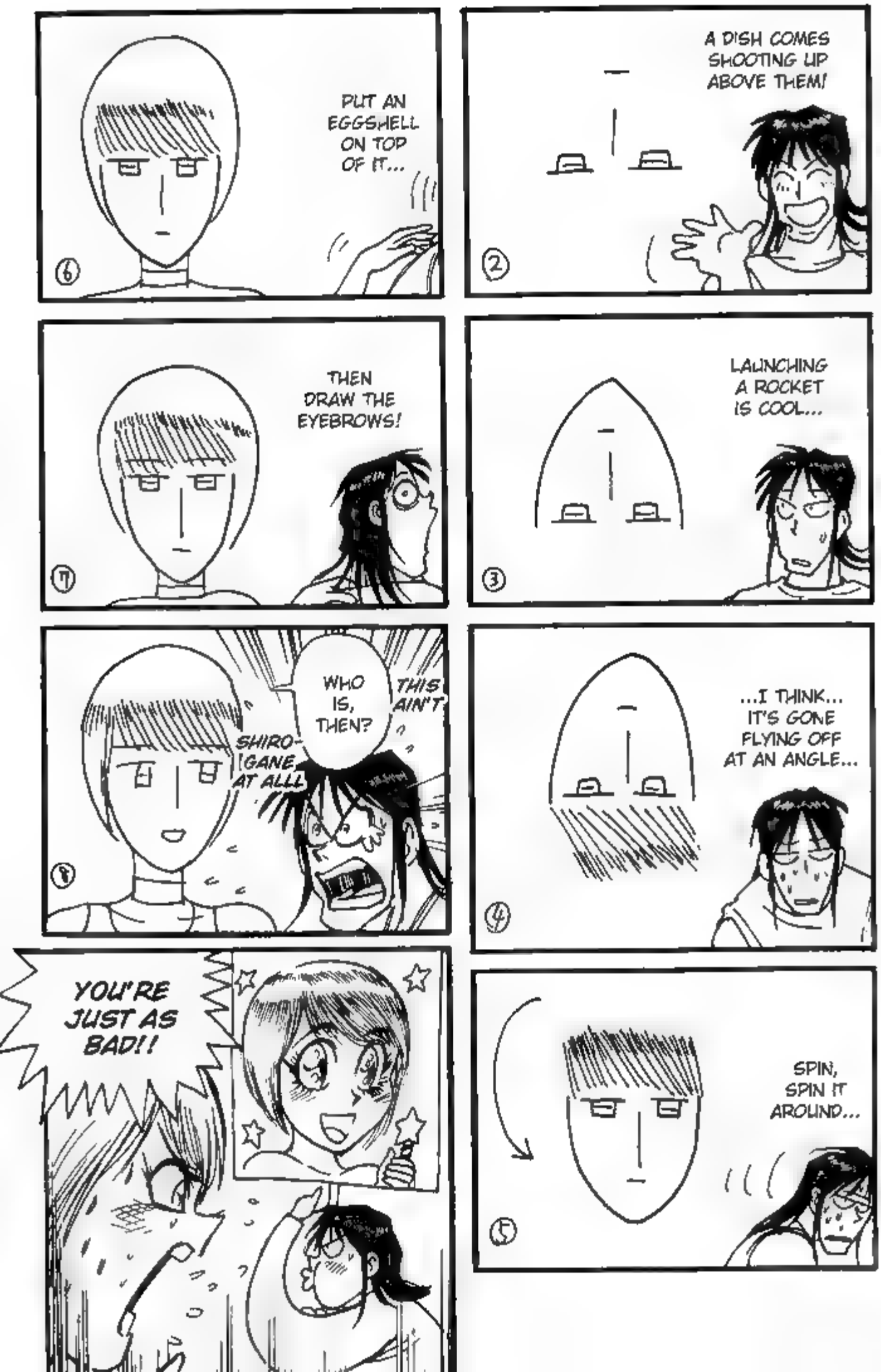
DRAWING NARUMI







WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, SHIROGANE?
WAAHH! THAT'S NOT KATOU AT ALL!
NARUMI IN VOLUME 3
THAT HEAD IS WAY TOO SCREWED UP, EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ME IN A WHILE!!
BY: SHIROGANE
DRAWING SHIROGANE
START WITH TWO FLYING HATS!
.....
SOME OF THE PUDDING... IS DRIPPING OUT...
7
...SUNS PEEKING OUT ON THE SIDE, POKONPOKON...
8
OH NO... SHARK FINS...!
9
BANGS COMING DOWN POSHO-POSHO!
10


A DISH COMES SHOOTING UP ABOVE THEM!
②
LAUNCHING A ROCKET IS COOL...
③
...I THINK... IT'S GONE FLYING OFF AT AN ANGLE...
④
SPIN, SPIN IT AROUND...
⑤
PUT AN EGGSHELL ON TOP OF IT...
⑥
THEN DRAW THE EYEBROWS!
⑦
WHO IS, THEN?
THIS AIN'T SHIRO-GANE AT ALL!
⑧
YOU'RE JUST AS BAD!!

THE END

SORRY. YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T USE THIS.

からくりサーカス⑬

少年サンデーコミックス

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Any group with more experience or skill
is welcome to take over at any time or
to redo chapters I have already done
if they are below the quality that
this series deserves.